

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 199

DATE: March 13, 2003

Version: As introduced

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Subject: Koochiching port authority; foreign trade zones

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Overview

This bill would allow the county board of Koochiching county to create a port authority which would have the same powers and duties given to the various city port authorities already created and authorized in statute. Currently, 25 cities in the state are authorized to establish port authorities or to exercise the powers of a port authority. No counties have such authority.

Port authorities are intended to promote the welfare of the port district; increase the volume of the port's commerce; promote safe, efficient, and economical handling of the port's commerce; and provide dock, railroad, and terminal facilities in the port. By general law, a city must levy a tax, not to exceed 0.01813 percent of taxable market value, for the benefit of its port authority if requested by the port authority, and may levy an additional tax at the request of the port authority, not to exceed 0.00282 percent of taxable market value, at the city's discretion. In Koochiching county, the county board would act in the place of the city council with regard to the port authority.

Section

- 1 Koochiching county; port authority.** Grants the governing board of Koochiching county the authority to establish a port authority having the powers granted to a city port authority in statute, with the county board exercising the powers of a city council.
- 2 Foreign trade zones.** Allows a local unit of government to apply to exercise foreign trade zone powers under federal law. Current statute allows either a port authority or an economic development authority to apply to exercise foreign trade zone powers.

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Effective date. Effective the day following final enactment.