

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: American Flag Pin or Patch Worn by Public Employees

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Overview

Provides that a Minnesota public employer may not forbid an employee from wearing a patch or pin depicting the flag of the United States of America. Specifies certain exceptions. Requires the commissioner of finance or revenue to suspend disbursement of any state appropriation or aid to any public employer not complying with this requirement.

Section

1 American flag patch or pin. (a) Provides that a public employer may not forbid its employees from wearing a patch or pin respectfully depicting the flag of the United States of America, according to customary and standard flag etiquette, except that:

(1) An employer may limit the size of a flag patch to no more than 3" x 5"; and

(2) An employer may forbid wearing a pin for health and safety reasons if the employer forbids wearing of all similar pins.

(b) The term "public employer" is defined by reference to the chapter governing public sector collective bargaining. This includes the state, units of local government, and the University of Minnesota. The definition also specifically includes the legislature.

(c) Requires the commissioner of finance or revenue to suspend disbursement of any state appropriation or aid to a public employer who does not comply with this section until the commissioner determines the employer is in compliance.

