

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 241

DATE: February 4, 2005

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Vandevveer and others

Subject: American Flag Pin or Patch: Public Employees and Contractors

Analyst: Mark Shepard (651-296-5051)

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

Provides that a Minnesota public employer or a contractor with a 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 depicting the flag of the United States of America, 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) Provides that a contract for goods or services entered into by a public employer must require the contractor and any subcontractor to comply with this section as if contractor were a public employer.

(c) The terms "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.

(d) 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.