

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 647

**DATE:** February 14, 2005

**Version:** As introduced

**Authors:** House Research Bill Summary

**Subject:** Exception to conflict of interest prohibition

**Analyst:** Deborah A. Dyson

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](http://www.house.mn/hrd).

---

Under current law, "a public officer who is authorized to take part in any manner in making any sale, lease, or contract in official capacity shall not voluntarily have a personal financial interest in that sale, lease, or contract or personally benefit financially therefrom. Every public officer who violates this provision is guilty of a gross misdemeanor." Minn. Stat. § 471.87. "Public officer" is not defined but would include an elected official and probably would include non-elected officers and employees who may influence the decision and make recommendations.

Section 471.88 provides exceptions to this general rule. This bill add an exception and would allow a local government to contract with a volunteer ambulance service to pay compensation and retirement benefits to its members. The proposed new provision is essentially the same as that provided in current law for volunteer fire departments.

Under Minnesota Statutes, section 471.88, subdivision 1, the governing body may only do this following a unanimous vote. The exceptions listed in section 471.88 apply to a port authority, seaway port authority, economic development authority, watershed district, soil and water conservation district, town, school district, hospital district, county, or city.