HOUSE RESEARCH —

Bill Summary —

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Overview

This bill strengthens requirements for MnDOT for administering the program that provides a bid preference to veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs) when competing for State-funded construction-related contracts (i.e., those not involving any federal funding).

The bill also authorizes counties to create a bid-preference program for veteran-owned small businesses competing for county contracts to provide the county with goods, services, and construction-related work.

Article 1: MnDOT

- Small targeted group business set-aside program. Under current law, the bid preference program as it applies to MnDOT, applies similarly to veteran-owned small businesses and small targeted group businesses. Most significantly, the bid preference is at the *discretion* of the commissioner. Under the bill, each reference to "veteran-owned small business" is stricken from this discretionary subdivision of current law (Subd. 2).
- Veteran-owned small businesses (VOSBs). The bill creates a new subdivision (subd. 2a) applying solely to veteran-owned small businesses. The new subdivision essentially duplicates for MnDOT the provisions pertaining to small targeted group businesses, except that here the language pertaining to VOSBs is generally *mandatory*. In short, the language *requires* MnDOT to implement the bid preference program for veteran-owned small businesses competing for state contracts for construction-related professional and technical services.
- 3 Cross reference.
- 4 Reporting requirements prescribed.
- 5 Purpose of the bid preference program for veteran-owned small businesses: stated.

Article 2: Authorizing Counties

County bid preference program authorized. Counties are authorized, at the discretion of each county, to create a bid preference program for veteran-owned small businesses competing for county contracts for goods and services, including construction-related services. This program is modeled on existing law for state agencies, except that the establishment of such program within any county would be at the discretion of the county itself.