HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Dettmer and others

Subject: Anoka County, bonding for public safety systems

Analyst: Deborah A. Dyson

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Anoka County was originally authorized in 2002 to issue $12.5 million in bonds for the 800 MHz public safety communications system infrastructure. Laws 2002, chapter 390, section 27, effective May 23, 2002 (codified in Minn. Stat. ch. 383E in 2005). Debt was issued under this authority in 2002.

The bill does five things:

- it expands the purposes for which bonds may be issued to include any countywide public safety improvements and equipment acquisition;
- it modifies the cap on the amount of principal that may be issued to limit it to an *outstanding* principal amount of $12.5 million at any time;
- it requires the Anoka County Joint Law Enforcement Council (a joint powers board established in 1970 that includes representatives of law enforcement, city councils, and the county board) to approve issuance of any debt for public safety purposes;
- it excludes debt issued under this law from the computation of net debt for purposes of debt limits that apply to the county; and
- it extends the county's authority to issue debt under this law so it expires January 1, 2027, instead of in 2012 (ten years after the county first issued debt under this law).