

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 136
Version: As introduced

DATE: January 28, 2013

Authors: Hansen and others

Subject: Definition of public official, campaign finance, and public disclosure

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Adds judges and county commissioners to the definition of “public official” under the campaign finance and public disclosure law.

This would require judges and county commissioners to: (1) file statements of economic interest with the board; (2) subject them to certain conflict of interest procedures in chapter 10A; and (3) subject them to the statutory gift ban law, if they are not already subject to these laws.

Metropolitan county commissioners currently must file economic interest statements under section 10A.09, and are subject to the conflict of interest law in section 10A.07. Metropolitan county commissioners and judges are currently subject to the gift ban law, section 10A.071. Candidates for judge are explicitly exempt from the economic interest statements in current law, section 10A.09.

There are 447 county commissioners (43 in the metropolitan area). There are 81 counties with five-member county boards, and six counties with seven-member boards (Anoka, Dakota, Hennepin, Olmsted, Ramsey, and St. Louis).

There are 289 district court judges, 19 appeals court judges, and seven state Supreme Court judges.