

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 825
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 11, 2013

Authors: Hertaus and others

Subject: Health and Safety Revenue; Authorizing Certain School Safety Projects

Analyst: Tim Strom

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/hrd.htm.

Overview

Unlike most school funding formulas, the health and safety revenue program is based on the actual costs of qualifying health and safety projects and not on an allowance per pupil. A district with a facility problem related to health or safety concerns may submit an application to the Commissioner of Education for authorization to receive health and safety revenue. Health and safety is an equalized aid and levy, but because of the low equalizing factor for the program, nearly all health and safety revenue is provided through the local levy. Because health and safety revenue is project-based, revenue amounts vary markedly among school districts. Health and safety revenue may be used for the following purposes:

- ▶ correcting fire and life safety hazards;
- ▶ abating asbestos hazards;
- ▶ disposing of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs);
- ▶ maintaining fuel storage and distribution equipment;
- ▶ correcting OSHA violations;
- ▶ correcting certain air quality problems;
- ▶ conducting certain facility management activities; and
- ▶ certain other projects specifically listed in statute.

The list of qualifying projects has been expanded (and narrowed) over time.

This bill authorizes health and safety revenue for school safety projects related to violence prevention activities including facility improvements designed to enhance building security, and communications equipment such as public announcement systems and emergency communications devices.

Section

Section

- 1** **Use of health and safety revenue.** Expands health and safety revenue to include: (1) demolition, repair, replacement, and installation of new equipment and structural remodeling related to violence prevention; and (2) enhanced facility security equipment including public announcement systems and emergency communication devices.

- 2** **Restrictions on health and safety revenue.** Removes from the statutory list of prohibited health and safety projects spending on violence prevention, facility security, public announcement systems, and emergency communication devices.