

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1455
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 3, 2014

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Subject: Blue Earth County library governance

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Provides for the Blue Earth County Board of Commissioners to be the authority over the county library system except for policies and rules governing library operations, review of operating budget and capital plans, gifts and trust funds for the library system. The library board is to have sole discretion and authority over the collections and use of meeting rooms. Provides for the county board to otherwise operate and administer the county library system. Effective upon local approval.

Under general law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 134, a county may establish library services and if it does so, it must appoint a library board. Once appointed, the library board has control of the operation and administration of the library system.

This proposed special law for Blue Earth County is substantially similar to provisions enacted for Hennepin and Washington counties. *See* Minn. Stat. § 383B.239 (enacted in 1981 for Hennepin County), and Laws 2005, ch. 13 (Washington County). Hennepin County's special law reads:

“The county board shall direct, operate and manage the county library system. . . . The library board shall provide advice and make recommendations on any matter pertaining to the library system to the county board and the library director and shall exercise the powers and perform the duties delegated to it by the county board, which may include, but are not limited to, the establishment of rules governing library operations, review of the annual operating budget for submission to the county board, development of a long-range plan and acceptance of gift and trust funds. The library board shall determine the contents of the collections of the library system and shall be responsible for the use of library meeting rooms.”