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Overview

This bill changes rider language 2014-2015 housing finance agency appropriations, requires the housing finance agency to send the affordable housing plan to the legislature, and creates a pilot project to promote affordable homeownership to reduce the disparity gap for communities of color and American Indians in Minnesota.

Section

- **1 Total appropriation.** Adds rider language to the 2013 appropriations to the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency (MHFA) to continue ongoing efforts to reduce the racial and ethnic disparities gap in homeownership rates and increase the resources to achieve that goal.
- 2 Challenge program. Provides \$500,000 of the Challenge Fund appropriation is for homeownership opportunities for families with a disabled child who have recently faced eviction. This section returns money to general Challenge Fund uses if the money is not used by October 31, 2014.
- **3 Affordable housing plan; disparities report.** Requires MHFA to provide the draft and final version of the affordable housing plan, the agency's annual plan providing information on the use of funding the agency receives, to the legislature.
- 4 Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) Pilot Project. Creates a pilot program through the housing finance agency, in collaboration with the four councils of color, to close the disparity gap in affordable homeownership and rental housing available for communities of color and American Indians. The program allows MHFA to provide financial supports to community local nonprofits to provide wraparound services in housing and to close the

<u>Section</u>

disparity gap and redevelop neighborhoods with high foreclosure rates. This section also requires that some of the funds can be used to develop and administer financing for families that cannot use conventional home financing due to cultural or religious beliefs.