

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: University of Minnesota; Fetal Tissue Research Center

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Overview

This bill reduces appropriations to the University of Minnesota for FY 2017 by \$14 million, and requires the construction of a fetal tissue research center. If the center is constructed and becomes operational, a \$14 million appropriation would be provided to the University in FY 2018.

The bill also adopts a legislative finding related to the University's compliance with an existing state law regulating the proper disposal of aborted and miscarried fetuses.

Section

- 1-2 Appropriations.** Provides conforming updates to several provisions of the 2015 higher education budget law, to reflect the substantive reduction of appropriations to the University of Minnesota contained in section 3 of this bill.
- 3 Operations and maintenance.** Reduces the total operations and maintenance appropriation to the University of Minnesota in FY 2017 by \$14 million.

In the 2015 budget, \$15 million was appropriated in both FY 2016 and FY 2017 to strengthen the university's medical school. This bill reduces the FY 2017 appropriation for the medical school by \$14 million, and directs that the remaining \$1 million be used to establish a fetal tissue research center.

Among other duties, the fetal tissue research center must oversee university research activities involving fetal tissue, and act as a central source for procurement of fetal tissue

Section

specimens. The center would be prohibited from acquiring fetal tissue unless the tissue is available due to the natural death of the fetus.

- 4 Disposal of aborted fetal tissue; legislative findings.** Provides a legislative finding related to the university's compliance with section 145.1621. That section of statute regulates the disposal of aborted and miscarried fetuses in Minnesota.
- 5 Appropriation; University of Minnesota.** Provides a FY 2018 appropriation to the University of Minnesota, to replace the FY 2017 reduction contained in section 3 of the bill. The appropriation would only be available if the university certifies that the fetal tissue research center established in section 3 has been established and is operational.

If the university receives the appropriation provided by this section, it would be added to the university's base beginning in FY 2019.