

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill provides an appropriation to the University of Minnesota to expand and strengthen the University's Institutional Review Board (IRB).

The IRB is an existing entity at the university, and is responsible for reviewing and overseeing research activities that include the use of human subjects. The IRB's general duties include verifying that any human subjects used in research have given their informed consent to be studied, and that the health, wellbeing, and privacy of research subjects are not put at an undue risk.

The appropriation in this bill is intended to support several new functions of the IRB. These functions would include:

- (1) developing and enhancing university policies related to the use of human subjects and human tissue in research;
- (2) conducting frequent, random, and unannounced compliance audits of research using human tissue;
- (3) implementing education, outreach, and training programs; and
- (4) creation of an anonymous reporting system to receive complaints of potential violations of law or university policy related to human subjects or human tissues in research.