

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3508

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Subject: Public Utilities Commission membership

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House File 3508 increases the size of the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission from five to eight members. While under current law only one member must reside outside the seven-county metropolitan area, the bill requires the governor to appoint members to represent each of the state's congressional districts. Members must live in those districts at the time they are appointed.

Current members of the commission are allowed to complete their appointed terms. Appointments from the first and seventh congressional districts are to be made in October 2016, with six-year terms for those appointed beginning in January 2017. In order to stagger the terms of the newly-appointed commissioners, appointments are made over a period of five years. The commission would contain six members in 2017, seven members in 2018 and 2019, and reach its full complement of eight in 2020.