

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1353  
**Version:** As Introduced

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**Subject:** Ethnic Councils

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### Overview

Creates new laws governing three councils: Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, Minnesota African Heritage Council, and Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. Repeals the current laws governing the Council on Affairs of Chicano/Latino People, the Council on Black Minnesotans, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

#### Section

##### **1 Ethnic councils.**

**Subd. 1. Creation.** Creates the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs, the Minnesota African Heritage Council, and the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans. States that these councils are in the legislative branch.

**Subd. 2. Membership.** Provides that each council has 15 voting members. The Governor appoints 11 members, and 4 members are legislators (one from each caucus). Provides criteria for members appointed by the Governor.

**Subd. 3. Appointments; terms; removal.** Specifies provisions governing appointments, terms, compensation, and filling of vacancies. Provides that a member who missed more than half of the council meetings during a 12-month period automatically is removed from the council, and that a member appointed by the governor may be removed by a vote of three of the four legislative members of the council. Legislative members serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority.

## Section

Provides that a member appointed by the Governor may serve no more than 8 years on a council. A legislator may serve no more than 8 consecutive years or 12 nonconsecutive years on any one council.

**Subd. 4. Training; executive committee meetings; support.** Requires members appointed by the Governor to attend orientation training within six months of appointments, or be removed from the council. Requires the Commissioner of Administration to provide training on specified topics.

Provides for election of officers, and executive committee, quorum, conflicts of interest. Requires the Commissioner of Administration to provide administrative support through the small agency resources team (SMART) under section 16B.371.

**Subd. 5. Executive director; staff.** Requires the Legislative Coordinating Commission to appoint an executive director for each council, and provides that the director serves in the unclassified service at the pleasure of the LCC. (Under current law, the director for each council is appointed by the council). Requires the LCC to consult with the executive committee of the applicable council in recruiting and selecting an executive director. Requires the executive director to collaboratively lead the council, and to appoint other staff necessary to carry out council duties.

**Subd. 6. Duties.** Requires each council to advise the Governor and the Legislature on issues confronting the constituency of the council, and on administrative and legislative changes need to improve the economic and social condition of the constituency. Specifies other duties, including serving as a liaison between state government and organizations that serve the constituency of the council.

**Subd. 7. Powers.** Authorizes the LCC, upon request, to enter into a contract or accept gifts and grants on behalf of a council.

**Subd. 8. Reports.** Requires councils to report to the legislature by January 15 each year, and to request legislative hearings to present the annual reports. Requires reports to include specific objectives and outcome measures.

2 **Transition.** Provides the current council members will serve out their terms, except that the terms will end December 31, 2015 for members who have served 8 years or more at that time. Provides that if a council currently has more members than provided for in this bill, positions will remain vacant as terms expired until the council is the required size.

Requires the LCC to appoint new executive directors by November 15, 2015. Authorizes incumbents to apply, but provides that if an incumbent is not selected, the person's employment ends when the new director is appointed. Other council staff are transferred to employment with the reformulated councils.

3 **Revisor instruction.** Provides for the statutes to reflect the new names of two councils.

4 **Revisor instruction.** Instructs the Revisor to make necessary changes in cross references to repealed sections.

5 **Repealer.** Repeals current laws creating the three councils that are reformulated in this bill.

6 **Effective date.** Effective July 1, 2015.