

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Albright

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Analyst: Deborah A. Dyson

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Overview

- ▶ Sections 1, 2, 4, and paragraph (b) of the repealer change the composition of the Metropolitan Council from 16 members appointed by and serving at the pleasure of the governor from districts to 14 county commissioners, two from each metropolitan county appointed by the respective county boards and serving no more than two, two-year terms (staggered). Section 3 changes council member compensation from \$20,000 per year to per diem and expenses that are not otherwise paid for by the county. Section 5 changes the vote required for the council to adopt any policy, plan, or budget. Effective January 1, 2018.
- ▶ Sections 6 to 16 and paragraph (a) of the repealer is from H.F. 2050 and eliminate the authority of the Metropolitan Council to require local comprehensive plan amendments in response to council policies, plans, and system statements. Effective August 1, 2015.
- ▶ Section 17 is from H.F. 2104 and creates a Blue Ribbon Commission to study and make recommendations on the governance structure, powers, and duties of the Metropolitan Council. Effective the day after enactment.

Section

- 1** **Creation.** Changes the size of the Metropolitan Council from 17 to 15.
- 2** **Members; appointment; terms.** Provides for two county commissioners from each metropolitan county to be appointed by the respective county boards to serve as Metropolitan Council members. Members can serve no more than two, two-year terms. Provides for determining when there is a vacancy and filling it.
- 3** **Compensation.** Permits the council to compensate members as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3. This section provides for per diem at \$55 plus expenses. This statute also provides that “members who are state employees or employees of

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political subdivisions must not receive the daily compensation for activities that occur during working hours for which they are compensated by the state or political subdivision.”

Current law, repealed in the bill, provides for compensation at \$20,000 per year.

- 4 **Chair; appointment, officers, selection; duties and compensation.** Technical.
- 5 **Vote required to take action.** Requires both members from at least four counties to vote in favor of adoption or approval of a council plan, policy, or budget, and requires at least three of the counties whose members vote in favor to be other than Hennepin or Ramsey.
- 6 **Development guide.** States that the development guide is advisory and no local government can be required to comply with or conform to it.
- 7 **For compatibility, conformity.** Provides for council review to be advisory and strikes language to conform to repealer.
- 8 **120-day limit.** Strikes language relating to council authority to require local comprehensive plan changes and the appeals process.
- 9 **Legislative findings and purpose.** Strikes the language in the findings and purpose statement related to the Metropolitan Land Planning Act that describes the need for coordination of local plans in the region, and for consistency with metropolitan systems plans (wastewater collection and treatment, parks and open space, and transportation).
- 10 **Metropolitan system statements; amendments.** Changes the requirement for local governments in the metropolitan area to review their plans in response to systems statements to determine if they want to amend – as opposed to if they need to amend – to be consistent with the systems statements.
- 11 **No conflicting zoning, fiscal device, official control.** Same.
- 12 **Public facilities plan.** Strikes reference to protecting metropolitan system plans.
- 13 **Implementation program.** Strikes reference to protecting or conforming to metropolitan system plans.
- 14 **Decennial review.** Same as section 10.
- 15 **No conflict with plans.** Strikes prohibition of local government adopting an official control in conflict with metropolitan system plans.
- 16 **Levy for increased costs.** Technical, cross-reference.
- 17 **Blue Ribbon Commission on the Metropolitan Council.** Establishes a commission of 13 members, six legislators and seven public members, to study the needs of the region and make recommendations to the legislature and the governor on the powers, duties, functions, and responsibilities that the Metropolitan Council should have, considering the appropriate relationship to local governments and what governance structure would support and enhance those powers, duties, functions, and relationships. Lists topics to be considered, persons and entities to be consulted.

Provides for appointment of chairs, meetings and staffing, compensation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the LCC to pay costs of the commission.

Section

Requires a report, which may be in the form of proposed legislation, by March 15, 2016.

Expires June 30, 2016.

- 18 Repealer.** (a) Repeals provisions relating to making the plans of the council advisory.
- (b) Repeals provisions relating to the make-up of the council from 16 members appointed by the governor from districts and the 1994 law setting the compensation at \$20,000/year.
- 19 Application; effective dates; transition.** (a) The change to a council consisting of county commissioners is effective January 1, 2018. Provides for staggering of initial appointments.
- (b) The provisions making the council's plans advisory are effective August 1, 2015 and apply to policies, plans, guides, ordinances, applications, or other matters submitted to the council on or after that date.
- (c) The Blue Ribbon Commission provision is effective the day after enactment.