

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Whelan and others

**Subject:** University of Minnesota; Fetal Tissue Research Center

**Analyst:** Matt Gehring (651-296-5052)

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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 purchaser of fetal tissue specimens. The

**Section**

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.