HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

File Number:	H.F. 423	**Date:**	February 7, 2017
Version:	First engrossment		

Authors: Theis and others

Subject: State government; accommodation for hard-of-hearing in state funded capital projects

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Overview

This bill requires the use of audio-induction loops in certain state-funded capital projects to improve sound for people using hearing aids or with cochlear implants. It provides for some exemptions to the requirement.

Section

1   **Accommodation for hard-of-hearing in state-funded capital projects.**

> **Subd. 1. Definition.** Defines "public gathering space" as a space constructed or renovated and intended for use by 15 or more people and in which audible communications are integral to use of the space.

> **Subd. 2. Accommodation.** Prohibits state capital grants or contracts for construction or renovation of a public gathering space unless the project is equipped with audio-induction loops, if there will be a permanent audio-amplification system, and the project meets standards on background noise and reverberation.

> **Subd. 3. Exemption.** Exempts a project from the requirement if it is not feasible, in conflict with other law or other project requirements, or the costs outweigh the benefits. Requires the commissioner to consult with the Commission on Deaf, Deafblind, and Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans before making a determination.

> **Subd. 4. Exemption reports.** Requires reports on exemptions made.

Section

Effective the day after enactment and applies to any project funded with an appropriation enacted after January 1, 2017, except for projects that have completed schematic design on the effective date. Encourages compliance for projects not required to comply.