

**File Number:** H.F. 1047  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** February 20, 2017

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**Subject:** Agricultural Utilization Research Institute

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### Overview

This bill makes various changes to the organization and operation of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI).

#### Section

- 1 **Establishment.** Authorizes AURI to assist entrepreneurs outside of Minnesota.
- 2 **Board of directors.** Modifies AURI's board by adding two at-large members.
- 3 **Duties.** Eliminates AURI's duty to provide research grants to public and private educational institutions and other organizations undertaking certain basic and applied research.
- 4 **Staff.** Requires the AURI board to hire only the executive director; currently the board must hire all AURI staff.
- 5 **Bylaws.** Eliminates a requirement that AURI publish its bylaws and bylaw amendments in the State Register. Instead, AURI would publish this information on the institute's website.
- 6 **Meetings.** Authorizes the AURI board to conduct meetings by telephone or other electronic means, subject to certain conditions that apply to other state boards and commissions.
- 7 **Conflict of interest.** Removes language prohibiting an AURI board member or staff person from participating in a decision in which the board member or staff person has a direct or indirect financial interest. Instead, the board member or staff person would not be allowed to advocate for it.

**Section**

- 8**        **Funds.** Eliminates a requirement that AURI place any revenue received from nonstate sources in a depository of the board's choosing. Increases the dollar amount for expenditures that require board approval from more than \$25,000 to more than \$50,000 and applies this same standard to revenues received. Provides that the full board no longer must approve these receipts and expenditures.
- 9**        **Accounts; audits.** Lifts a requirement that AURI pay each year for an audit by the Legislative Auditor. Requires AURI to pay for an annual financial audit by an independent audit firm. Requires AURI to file the audit with the Charities Division of the Office of the Attorney General; AURI currently must file the audit with the Secretary of State.