

File Number: H.F. 3290

Date: March 22, 2018

Version: First engrossment

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Subject: Commission on Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans

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Overview

This bill makes changes to the membership, powers, and duties of the Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing.

The commission serves as the principal agency of the state to advocate on behalf of Minnesotans who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing by working to ensure those persons have equal access to the services, programs, and opportunities available to others.

Section

- 1** **Membership.** Amends § 256C.28, subd. 1. Changes the length of the term commission members serve on the commission, extends the term limit from two to three consecutive terms a member may serve on the commission, and modifies the timing for commission members to select a chair from among their members. Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.
- 2** **Executive committee.** Amends § 256C.28, by adding subd. 1a. Gives the commission the authority to establish an executive committee and other committees of its members. Allows the executive committee to enter into contracts not to exceed \$50,000 to provide necessary services and supplies to the commission. Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.
- 3** **Removal; vacancies.** Amends § 256C.28, subd. 2. Makes the commission members' compensation, removal, and filling of vacancies subject to the requirements related to advisory councils and committees (currently, members are subject to the requirements related to administrative boards and agencies). Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.

Section

- 4** **Duties.** Amends § 256C.28, subd. 3a. Adds two new duties to the list of the commission's duties. Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.
- 5** **Powers.** Amends § 256C.28, subd. 5. Specifies that contracts for more than \$50,000 must be approved by a majority of the members of the commission. Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.
- 6** **Transition of the terms of members of the Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing.** Provides for the transition of the terms of members of the Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing. Makes this section effective August 1, 2018.
- 7** **Revisor's instruction.** Requires the revisor to change "Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans" to "Commission of the Deaf, DeafBlind, and Hard-of-Hearing" whenever these terms occur in Minnesota Statutes.