

**File Number:** H.F. 2117  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** March 9, 2017

**Authors:** Pierson and others

**Subject:** Minnesota State Council on Disability Appropriation

**Analyst:** Danyell A. Punelli

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This bill appropriates \$1,002,000 in each fiscal year of the 2018-2019 biennium from the general fund to the Minnesota State Council on Disability for administration and operation expenses.

The Council on Disability consists of 17 members appointed by the governor. Members are appointed from the general public and from organizations which provide services for persons who have a disability. A majority of council members are persons with a disability or parents or guardians of persons with a disability. There is at least one member of the council appointed from each of the state development regions. The commissioners of the Departments of Education, Human Services, Health, and Human Rights and the directors of the Rehabilitation Services and State Services for the Blind in the Department of Employment and Economic Development or their designees serve as ex officio members of the council without vote. In addition, the council may appoint ex officio members from other bureaus, divisions, or sections of state departments which are directly concerned with the provision of services to persons with a disability.

The council has the following duties and powers:

(1) to advise and otherwise aid the governor; appropriate state agencies, including but not limited to the Departments of Education, Human Services, Employment and Economic Development, and Human Rights and the Divisions of Rehabilitation Services and Services for the Blind; the state legislature; and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and the administration of programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability in Minnesota;

(2) to encourage and assist in the development of coordinated, interdepartmental goals and objectives and the coordination of programs, services, and facilities among all state departments and private providers of service as they relate to persons with a disability;

- (3) to serve as a source of information to the public regarding all services, programs, and legislation pertaining to persons with a disability;
- (4) to review and make comment to the governor, state agencies, the legislature, and the public concerning adequacy of state programs, plans, and budgets for services to persons with a disability and for funding under the various federal grant programs;
- (5) to research, formulate, and advocate plans, programs, and policies which will serve the needs of persons who are disabled;
- (6) to advise the Departments of Labor and Industry and Employment and Economic Development on the administration and improvement of the workers' compensation law as it relates to programs, facilities, and personnel providing assistance to workers who are injured and disabled;
- (7) to advise the Workers' Compensation Division of the Department of Labor and Industry and the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals as to the necessity and extent of any alteration or remodeling of an existing residence or the building or purchase of a new or different residence which is proposed by a licensed architect;
- (8) to initiate or seek to intervene as a party in any administrative proceeding and judicial review thereof to protect and advance the right of all persons who are disabled to an accessible physical environment; and
- (9) to initiate or seek to intervene as a party in any administrative or judicial proceeding which concerns programs or services provided by public or private agencies or organizations and which directly affects the legal rights of persons with a disability (Minn. Stat. § 256.482).