

Subject Home rule charter cities, charter commission expenses

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Summary

This bill changes the method for determining and amounts that a city must pay for its charter commission expenses. There are 107 home rule charter cities; expenses may be for developing a proposed charter or amending it. The expenses that may be included would also cover costs of informing the public of the charter provisions or suggested amendments.

Under current law, the maximum amount in a year for a first class city (Minneapolis, St. Paul, Duluth, and Rochester) is \$10,000, and for all other cities \$1,500.

The bill would allow a city to pay the greater of 0.07 of the city's current certified general property tax levy or \$1,500 but no more than \$20,000 in a year. Of the 107 home rule charter cities, 105 would have an expense cap of \$20,000/year. The other two cities (Alberta and Browerville) would have a cap of \$5,232 and \$14,201 respectively.

Looking at Pay 2019 certified levies and all cities, there would be:

- 76 cities with a cap of \$1,500 (total levy is less than \$21,429);
- 332 cities with a cap of \$1,500 to \$20,000 (total levy is \$21,429 to \$285,714); and
- 445 cities with a cap of \$20,000 (total levy is greater than \$285,714).