

Subject Minnesota Council on Disability

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Summary

The Minnesota Council on Disability consists of 17 members appointed by the governor. The council's duties include: (1) advising and aiding the governor, state agencies, the legislature, and the public on matters pertaining to public policy and the administration of programs, services, and facilities for persons who have a disability; (2) serving as a source of information to the public regarding all services, programs, and legislation pertaining to persons with a disability; (3) researching, formulating, and advocating for plans, programs, and policies which will serve the needs of persons who have disabilities; and (4) initiating or seeking to intervene as a party in any administrative proceeding and judicial review thereof to protect and advance the right of all persons who have disabilities to an accessible physical environment.

This bill appropriates \$250,000 in each year of the 2024-2025 biennium from the general fund to the Minnesota Council on Disability to select, appoint, and compensate employees to perform specified tasks, including: (1) providing a statewide training module for cities and counties on how to conform local government websites to accessibility standards; and (2) providing outreach, training, and technical assistance for local government officials and staff on website accessibility. Requires the training module to be developed and made available to counties and cities on or before July 1, 2024. Specifies this appropriation is onetime.

The bill also requires the Minnesota Council on Disability to report annually to the legislature regarding website accessibility training, technical assistance, and outreach numbers, outcomes, and costs.

Provides a July 1, 2023, effective date.