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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2689

05/18/2017 Authored by Clark, Allen, Maye Quade, Mariani, Franke and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations and Elections Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to state government; establishing a Council on LGBTQI Minnesotans;  
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 15.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. 15.0146 COUNCIL ON LGBTQI MINNESOTANS.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Council established; membership. (a) The Council on LGBTQI  
1.7 Minnesotans is established. The council consists of 16 voting members, appointed as provided  
1.8 in this subdivision. The governor may additionally appoint a commissioner of a state agency  
1.9 or a designee of that commissioner to serve as an ex-officio, nonvoting member of the  
1.10 council.

1.11 (b) The governor shall appoint a total of 12 public voting members, as follows: two  
1.12 members who identify as gay, two members who identify as lesbian, two members who  
1.13 identify as bisexual, two members who identify as transgender, two members who identify  
1.14 as queer, and two members who identify as intersex.

1.15 (c) Four legislators shall be appointed to the council, as follows: the speaker of the house  
1.16 and the house of representatives minority leader shall each appoint one member of the house  
1.17 of representatives, and the Subcommittee on Committees of the Senate Committee on Rules  
1.18 and Administration shall appoint one member of the senate majority caucus and one member  
1.19 of the senate minority caucus.

1.20 Subd. 2. Appointments; terms; removal. (a) In making appointments to the council,  
1.21 the governor shall consider an appointee's proven dedication and commitment to Minnesota's  
1.22 LGBTQI community and any expertise possessed by the appointee that might be beneficial

2.1 to the council, such as experience in public policy, legal affairs, social work, business, or  
2.2 management. The executive director and legislative members may offer advice to the  
2.3 governor on applicants seeking appointment.

2.4 (b) Terms, compensation, and filling of vacancies for members appointed by the governor  
2.5 are as provided in section 15.059. Removal of members appointed by the governor is  
2.6 governed by section 15.059, except that: (1) a member who missed more than half of the  
2.7 council meetings convened during a 12-month period is automatically removed from the  
2.8 council; and (2) a member appointed by the governor may be removed by a vote of three  
2.9 of the four legislative members of the council. The chair of the council shall inform the  
2.10 governor of the need for the governor to fill a vacancy on the council. Legislative members  
2.11 serve at the pleasure of their appointing authority.

2.12 (c) A member appointed by the governor may serve no more than a total of eight years  
2.13 on a council. A legislator may serve no more than eight consecutive years or 12  
2.14 nonconsecutive years on any one council.

2.15 Subd. 3. **Training; executive committee; meetings; support.** (a) A member appointed  
2.16 by the governor must attend orientation training within the first six months of service for  
2.17 the member's initial term. The commissioner of administration must arrange for the training  
2.18 to include but not be limited to the legislative process, government data practices, ethics,  
2.19 conflicts of interest, open meeting law, Robert's Rules of Order, fiscal management, and  
2.20 human resources. The governor must remove a member who does not complete the training.

2.21 (b) The council shall annually elect from among the members appointed by the governor  
2.22 a chair and other officers it deems necessary. These officers and one legislative member  
2.23 selected by the council shall serve as the executive committee of the council.

2.24 (c) Forty percent of voting members of the council constitutes a quorum. A quorum is  
2.25 required to conduct council business. A council member may not vote on any action if the  
2.26 member has a conflict of interest under section 10A.07.

2.27 (d) The council shall receive administrative support from the commissioner of  
2.28 administration under section 16B.371. The council may contract in its own name but may  
2.29 not accept or receive a loan or incur indebtedness except as otherwise provided by law.  
2.30 Contracts must be approved by a majority of the members of the council and executed by  
2.31 the chair and the executive director. The council may apply for, receive, and expend in its  
2.32 own name grants and gifts of money consistent with the powers and duties specified in this  
2.33 section.

3.1 (e) The attorney general shall provide legal services to the council on behalf of the state  
3.2 on all matters relating to the council, including matters relating to the state as the employer  
3.3 of the executive director of the council and other council staff.

3.4 Subd. 4. **Executive director; staff.** (a) The Legislative Coordinating Commission must  
3.5 appoint an executive director for the council. The executive director must be experienced  
3.6 in administrative activities and familiar with the challenges and needs of Minnesota's  
3.7 LGBTQI community. The executive director serves in the unclassified service at the pleasure  
3.8 of the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

3.9 (b) The Legislative Coordinating Commission must establish a process for recruiting  
3.10 and selecting applicants for the executive director position. This process must include  
3.11 consultation and collaboration with the council.

3.12 (c) The executive director and council members must work together in fulfilling council  
3.13 duties. The executive director must consult with the commissioner of administration to  
3.14 ensure appropriate financial, purchasing, human resources, and other services for operation  
3.15 of the council.

3.16 (d) Once appointed, the council is responsible for supervising the work of its director.  
3.17 The council chair must report to the chair of the Legislative Coordinating Commission  
3.18 regarding the performance of the executive director, including any recommendations  
3.19 regarding disciplinary actions. The executive director must appoint and supervise the work  
3.20 of other staff necessary to carry out the duties of the council. The executive director must  
3.21 consult with the council chair prior to taking the following disciplinary actions with council  
3.22 staff: written reprimand, suspension, demotion, or discharge. The executive director and  
3.23 other council staff are executive branch employees.

3.24 (e) The executive director must submit the council's biennial budget request to the  
3.25 commissioner of management and budget as provided under chapter 16A.

3.26 Subd. 5. **Duties of council.** (a) The council must work for the implementation of  
3.27 economic, social, legal, and political equality for Minnesota's LGBTQI community. The  
3.28 council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing  
3.29 the duties in this section.

3.30 (b) The council shall advise the governor and the legislature on issues confronting the  
3.31 community. This may include but is not limited to presenting the results of surveys, studies,  
3.32 and community forums to the appropriate executive departments and legislative committees.

4.1 (c) The council shall advise the governor and the legislature of administrative and  
 4.2 legislative changes needed to improve the economic and social condition of Minnesota's  
 4.3 LGBTQI community. This may include but is not limited to working with legislators to  
 4.4 develop legislation to address these issues and to work for passage of the legislation. This  
 4.5 may also include making recommendations regarding the state's affirmative action program  
 4.6 and the state's targeted group small business program, or working with state agencies and  
 4.7 organizations to develop business opportunities and promote economic development for  
 4.8 the LGBTQI community.

4.9 (d) The council shall advise the governor and the legislature of the implications and  
 4.10 effect of proposed administrative and legislative changes on the constituency of the council.  
 4.11 This may include but is not limited to tracking legislation, testifying as appropriate, and  
 4.12 meeting with executive departments and legislators.

4.13 (e) The council shall serve as a liaison between state government and organizations that  
 4.14 serve Minnesota's LGBTQI community. This may include but is not limited to working  
 4.15 with these organizations to carry out the duties in paragraphs (a) to (d), and working with  
 4.16 these organizations to develop informational programs or publications to involve and  
 4.17 empower the community in seeking improvement in their economic and social conditions.

4.18 (f) The council shall perform or contract for the performance of studies designed to  
 4.19 suggest solutions to the problems of Minnesota's LGBTQI community in the areas of  
 4.20 education, employment, human rights, health, housing, social welfare, and other related  
 4.21 areas.

4.22 (g) In carrying out duties under this subdivision, the council may act to advise on issues  
 4.23 that affect the shared constituencies with the councils established in section 15.0145.

4.24 Subd. 6. **Duties of council members.** A council member shall:

4.25 (1) attend and participate in scheduled meetings and be prepared by reviewing meeting  
 4.26 notes;

4.27 (2) maintain and build communication with Minnesota's LGBTQI community;

4.28 (3) collaborate with the council and executive director in carrying out the council's duties;  
 4.29 and

4.30 (4) participate in activities the council or executive director deem appropriate and  
 4.31 necessary to facilitate the goals and duties of the council.

4.32 Subd. 7. **Reports.** The council must report on the measurable outcomes achieved in the  
 4.33 council's current strategic plan to meet its statutory duties, along with the specific objectives

5.1 and outcome measures proposed for the following year. The council must submit the report  
5.2 by January 15 each year to the chairs of the committees in the house of representatives and  
5.3 the senate with primary jurisdiction over state government operations. Each report must  
5.4 cover the calendar year of the year before the report is submitted. The specific objectives  
5.5 and outcome measures for the following current year must focus on three or four achievable  
5.6 objectives, action steps, and measurable outcomes for which the council will be held  
5.7 accountable. The strategic plan may include other items that support the statutory purposes  
5.8 of the council but should not distract from the primary statutory proposals presented. The  
5.9 biennial budget of each council must be submitted to the Legislative Coordinating  
5.10 Commission by February 1 in each odd-numbered year.