

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Minnesota Zoo Foundation

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Overview

Transfers functions of the Minnesota Zoological Garden development office to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation.

Section

- 1 State employee health insurance.** Provides that employees of the Minnesota Zoo Foundation are eligible for state insurance benefits. Section 3 provides that the foundation must pay the costs ordinarily paid by the state.
- 2 Employees.** Authorizes the zoo administrator to contract with the Minnesota Zoo foundation to foster community support for the Minnesota Zoo. (Under current law, the administrator is authorized to appoint a development director or contract with a development consultant.)
- 3 Minnesota Zoo Foundation.** Transfers the zoo development office to the Minnesota Zoo Foundation. Provides that expenditure of state funds by the Minnesota Zoo Foundation is subject to audit by the legislative auditor. Provides that staff employed by the foundation are not state employees, but at the option of the foundation, may participate in state retirement, deferred compensation, and insurance programs, with the foundation paying the employer costs.
- 4 Unclassified pension coverage.** Provides that employees of the Zoo Foundation are participants in the unclassified employee program of the Minnesota State Retirement System.
- 5 Effective date.** The bill is effective July 1, 2004.