

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 944

DATE: February 23, 2005

Version: First Engrossment

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Subject: Some State Boards Allowed to Meet Electronically

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Overview

The current Open Meeting Law allows covered government entities to hold meetings by interactive TV if certain requirements are met. Statutes governing some specific state boards and councils allow meetings to be held by telephone or other electronic means if similar requirements are met. This bill authorizes several more state boards and councils under the jurisdiction of the Department of Employment and Economic Development to meet by telephone or other electronic means (1) if interactive television is impractical and (2) if they comply with specified requirements.

Section

1 Board meetings. Allows the Agricultural and Economic Development Board to hold meetings by telephone or other electronic means if interactive television is impractical and all the following conditions are met:

- board members wherever their physical location can hear each other and hear all discussion and testimony
- members of the public at the regular board meeting can hear all discussion, testimony, and votes
- at least one board member is physically present at the regular meeting location

Section

- all votes are conducted by roll call so each member's vote can be identified

Each member participating electronically is considered present for purposes of a quorum and participating in proceedings.

To the extent practical, the board must allow a person to monitor an electronic meeting electronically from a remote location. The board may require the person making an electronic connection to pay for documented marginal costs the board incurs for the additional connection.

If a regular, special, or emergency meeting is held electronically, the board must give notice in the same manner required by the Open Meeting Law of: the regular meeting location, the fact that some members may participate electronically, and the fact that remote connection may be available and there may be a cost for it.

- 2** **Advisory board meetings.** Same as section 1 for the Small Business Development Center Advisory Board.
- 3** **Board meetings.** Same as section 1 for the Minnesota Job Skills Partnership Board.
- 4** **Council meetings.** Same as section 1 for the Governor's Workforce Development Council.
- 5** **Board meeting.** Same as section 1 for the Urban Initiative Board.
- 6** **Explore Minnesota Tourism Council.** Same as section 1 for the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council.