

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Make a number of changes in laws relating to the work of the Department of Employee Relations (DOER).

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- 1** **Unclassified positions.** Under current law, positions in the state civil service are in the classified civil service, unless designated as unclassified. Also under current law, certain appointing authorities are granted authority to designate additional positions as unclassified. Among other requirements, this authority to designate a position as unclassified may be used only if the person occupying the position would report directly to the agency head or deputy agency head (and is part of the agency head's management team). This section changes the authority to designate unclassified positions in two ways:
 1. Explore Minnesota Tourism and the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board are added to the list of appointing authorities authorized to designate additional positions as unclassified.
 2. In addition to authority in current law, a position may be designated as unclassified if the person occupying the position would report to an *assistant* agency head (and would be part of the agency head's management team and meets the other requirements in current law).
- 2** **Limited consideration of applicants.** Current law allows DOER to limit consideration of applicants for state jobs in various ways. One of these potential limits involves former

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employees who separated from a job class "in good standing" within the past four years and have indicated availability for reinstatement. This section strikes the phrase "in good standing" with respect to these former employees.

- 3** **Temporary appointments.** Provides that an appointing authority may search the employment database for qualified applicants when making temporary appointments. Strikes language relating to eligible lists, because after 2004 changes in the law, these lists no longer exist.
- 4** **Insurance program.** Strikes employees of the Minnesota Humanities Commission from the list of groups eligible to participate in the state employee group insurance plan.
- 5** **Dissemination of information.** Authorizes DOER to electronically transmit to active employees information needed to administer the state employee group insurance plan, including information necessary for open enrollment. Requires DOER to provide notification that the information will be electronically transmitted.