

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2673

DATE: March 30, 2006

Version: Unofficial Engrossment

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Subject: Organ Donation

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Overview

This bill imposes obligations on emergency responders and peace officers to contact the state's organ procurement organization when a deceased person is sent to a morgue.

Section

- 1 Purpose Statement.** States the need for and purpose of the bill.
- 2 Notification.** Amends a section of Minnesota's Uniform Anatomical Gift Act. Under current law, public safety officers are obligated to search gravely injured and deceased citizens for documents indicating the persons' intentions regarding organ donation. The law requires a public safety officer who finds evidence of donor intent to provide that information to hospital staff if the person is sent to a hospital. The statute is silent in cases where a deceased citizen is sent directly to the morgue.

Under the bill, if a public safety officer finds a document of gift for a person being sent to the morgue, the public safety officer must notify his or her dispatcher. The dispatcher, in turn, must notify the federally designated management organization for organ transplant in Minnesota (Lifesource). By shifting the responsibility to the dispatcher the public safety officer will not be distracted from his or her on site duties. If this procedure is followed, it should result in Lifesource receiving timely notice of potential donors who currently may go undetected while placed in a morgue.