



Memorandum

Date: March 11, 2022

To: Representative Michael Nelson, Chair, State Government Finance and Elections

From: Michelle Weber, Executive Director, Legislative Coordinating Commission

Subject: HF4129: LCC Policy Bill

Thank you for authoring HF4129, the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) policy bill. Portions of this bill were originally drafted for introduction during the 2020 session; however, the language did not move forward due to the pandemic. Below is a summary of the provisions in the bill.

Article 1

Section 1: Provides authority, consistent with the level of authority provided to the revisor of statutes in M.S. § 3C.02, for the LCC executive director to enter into contracts on behalf of the legislature. A professional technical contract more than \$50,000 may only be entered into after consultation with the chair and vice-chair of the LCC.

The LCC serves as a fiscal agent for many activities of the legislature, such as broadcasting, closed captioning, and American Sign Language (ASL) accommodations. This language permits the executive director to sign the contract documents rather than requiring the chair of the LCC to sign the contracts. This is the same level of authority that exists for the revisor and other offices/commissions.

The LCC continues to be responsible for all the provisions outlined in M.S. § 3.225, including public solicitation of contracts more than \$25,000. The budgets for all joint offices and commissions are approved by the LCC and submitted to the committees with jurisdiction over state government for consideration.

Sections 2 and 3: Clarifies appointment timelines and eliminates outdated language for the Legislative Salary Council.

The Legislative Salary Council was created in 2016 after the passage of a constitutional amendment requiring the salary of legislators to be prescribed by a council representing each congressional district. One half of the members are appointed by the chief justice of the Supreme Court and one half of the members

are appointed by the governor. The enabling legislation referenced timelines necessary for the initial creation of the council which first met in 2017.

Every four years, the appointments to the council occur during the first month of the first year of a governor's term. The bill removes outdated references to January 2, 2017, and January 15, 2017. It establishes the ongoing appointment deadline to be January 15 in each odd-numbered year, with the first meeting to occur by January 25. This will permit a more reasonable time for a newly elected governor to make appointments and the first meeting to be convened.

The statute is also cleaned up to remove additional references to appointment terms that have already passed.

Sections 4 and 5. This language was requested by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MRPC), which is chaired by Senator Senjem. It cleans up and modifies the appointment terms and the process for regional citizen appointments to the MRPC. Citizen member terms are increased from 2 years to 4 years and are staggered so that there is a balance of new and continuing members every two years. The language specifies that the five citizen committees established by the commission make the recommendations for citizen members. This will assist with administration of the commission as well as ensure continuity for the commission.

The uncodified language accounts for the transition of current members' terms to the proposed staggered terms.

Article 2

Sections 1 and 2. Section 2 repeals the Trustee Candidate Advisory Council, which has not met since 2012. Section 1 adds criteria the governor must consider when making appointments to the Minnesota State Board of Trustees due to the repeal of the Trustees Candidate Advisory Council.

This council was originally established in 1991 to recruit, screen and recommend candidates to the Governor for non-student positions on the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities Board of Trustees. Currently all 24 seats are vacant. The Governor has a separate process that is used to recruit, screen, and appoint members to the board and has used that process since 2014. The Senate retains the legislature's oversight authority through its confirmation process.

Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is additional information that I can provide.

Thank you!

Attachment: HF4129, LCC Policy Bill