Overview

This bill sets up a process by which a county may establish a county economic development authority (EDA) or confer additional economic development powers on an existing county housing and redevelopment authority (HRA). The bill defines the areas of operation of a county EDA and the relationship of the county EDA to cities, existing and future city EDAs, and existing county HRAs.

1 County economic development service provider; nonmetro alternative creation.

Subd. 1. Authority to create. Allows a county outside the metropolitan area to form a county economic development authority (EDA) or grant EDA powers to an existing county or multi-county housing and redevelopment authority (HRA). An EDA created under this section has all statutory powers of a city EDA, except that the county may not transfer development projects of other local development authorities to the county EDA.

Subd. 2. Local committees. Authorizes a county to create a committee to recommend options for a county economic development services provider. The committee must have between 11 and 15 members, with at least one city and one township official. Representatives from political subdivisions must not be more than half of the committee membership, with no more than two county commissioners.

Subd. 3. Committee report. Requires report to be issued within 90 days of initial meeting, with one 60 day extension allowed. Requires committee findings identifying the current level of services, gaps in services, and ability of existing agencies to expand their activities; and recommending an organizational option for providing needed development services.

Subd. 4. Organizational options. Restricts committee options to the following:

- creating a county EDA having all statutory powers of a city EDA, except that the county may not transfer development projects of other local development authorities to the county EDA;
- requiring an existing county or multi-county HRA to assume additional statutory
responsibilities of an EDA;
pursuing special legislation; or
making no change in existing institutional structure.

Subd. 5. Area of operation. Area of operation includes all cities adopting resolutions electing to participate. Allows cities to adopt resolutions electing to withdraw every fifth year after electing to participate, effective on the anniversary of the original resolution to participate. Cities electing to withdraw retain any rights, obligation, and liabilities obtained or incurred during participation. City taxpayers in a city prohibiting a county economic development service provider from operating within its boundaries are not subject to a property tax levied for that entity.

Subd. 6. City economic development authorities. Existing city EDAs shall continue to operate under their existing statutory authority, even if a new county economic development service provider is established. Cities within the area of operation of a county economic development service provider may form additional city EDAs without the explicit concurrence of the county economic development service provider.

Subd. 7. Continuation of existing county and multi-county housing and redevelopment authorities. Existing county and multi-county HRAs shall continue operating under their statutory authority.