Overview

This bill creates the Northstar Research Coalition and appropriates an unspecified amount for the coalition. The Northstar Research Coalition is a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation created to establish a partnership between the University of Minnesota and the private sector in order to leverage the university's research capabilities into economic development results.

Section

1 Northstar Research Coalition. Requests the University of Minnesota to create a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation to be known as the Northstar Research Coalition by establishing a partnership with private industry to leverage the university's research capabilities into economic development results. Requires the money for projects funded under this initiative to be used to establish endowed faculty chairs in the area of technology-based research, purchase equipment for research laboratories, and fund research projects consistent with priorities established by the partnership. Allows the coalition to fund projects that establish collaborative research efforts between the University of Minnesota and the private sector, Mayo clinic, or MnSCU.

The duties of the coalition include identifying technology-based research projects that have the potential to create significant economic development opportunities and industrial growth, strengthening the university's emerging technology-based research capabilities, expanding the research capacity of the university by creating opportunities for the university to assist private enterprises in emerging technology-based industries, promoting the transfer of technology, developing application, review, and prioritization procedures for research projects seeking funding, and creating opportunities for collaborative research between the University of Minnesota, Mayo clinic, and MnSCU.

Gives the board authority to allocate state and nonstate money to projects. Requires the coalition to provide equal representation of university and private sector interests on the coalition's board of directors and provides for a supermajority in order to change the governance structure of the board. Creates a 12 member board. Six members are appointed by the board of regents of the
University of Minnesota and the other six members are appointed by the governor. Subsequent private sector members will be appointed by the incumbent members of the board. Requires private sector members of the board to have expertise in the technology research needs of the state and not be affiliated with the university.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount to the University of Minnesota for the university's contribution to the Northstar Research Coalition. Requires the university to establish the coalition as specified above and receive a match equal to the appropriated amount before the commissioner of finance releases the money for this appropriation.