

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2864 **DATE:** February 24, 2010
Version: First committee engrossment
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Subject: Electronic monitoring; domestic abuse offenders
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Overview

This bill authorizes a judicial district to conduct a pilot project to allow courts in the district to order, as a condition of release in domestic abuse cases, electronic monitoring of an offender to protect a victim's safety.

A chief judge that conducts a pilot must convene an advisory group. The judicial district must develop standards for the use of electronic monitoring to protect victims, to limit data use, and to evaluate the program's effectiveness.

The bill maintains current language prohibiting districts without pilot projects from using electronic monitoring to protect victims of domestic abuse until the DOC adopts standards. To this end, the bill directs a judicial district conducting a pilot project to provide data to the DOC to aid in developing standards. In addition, the bill directs the judicial district to report information on the pilot project to state court administration. The court shall report information on any or all pilot projects to the legislature by January 15, 2013. The amendments expire in 2013.

(The language in subdivision 2a was enacted in 1992. As noted, it prohibits the use of electronic monitoring to protect victims until the DOC adopts standards. In 1993, the DOC submitted findings to the legislature concluding that no standards should be adopted because the use of reverse electronic monitoring would not protect victims. The report indicated that no viable technology was available to fulfill the goal of protecting victims.)