

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Minnesota's largest school districts qualify for the alternative facilities revenue program. A district qualifies to participate in the alternative facilities program if the district has either: at least 1,850,000 square feet of building space and an average building age of 15 years or more; or more than 1,500,000 square feet of building space and an average building age of 35 years or more. A district that is participating in the alternative facilities program may issue bonds or annually levy for health and safety projects or for deferred maintenance projects without voter approval. For fiscal year 2012, the alternative facilities levy for qualifying districts totaled approximately \$140 million and the annual aid is about \$19.3 million.

This bill expands the uses of alternative facilities revenue to include the costs of special assessments and the costs associated with building modifications necessary for student and staff safety.

- 1 **Alternative facilities revenue; to qualify.** Clarifies that alternative facilities revenue may be used for implementing a district's ten-year facility plan.
- 2 **Facility plan.** Includes the costs of special assessments and building modifications necessary to enhance student and staff safety as eligible alternative facilities projects.