

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Adopts the MC2013-4 plan for redistricting the Metropolitan Council.

Appointments to the Metropolitan Council are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 473.123, and in particular, subdivision 3. The council consists of 17 members all appointed by the governor, subject to the advice and consent of the Senate. Sixteen members are from districts, and the chair is appointed from the region at large.

The members all serve at the pleasure of the governor. “The terms of members end with the term of the governor, except that all terms expire on the effective date of the next apportionment. A member serves at the pleasure of the governor. A member shall continue to serve the member’s district until a successor is appointed and qualified.”

The legislature must redraw the boundaries of the council districts after each decennial federal census so that each district has substantially equal population. Redistricting is effective in the year ending in the numeral “3.” Within 60 days after a redistricting plan takes effect, the governor must appoint members from the newly drawn districts. Minn. Stat. § 473.123, subd. 3a.

Maps illustrating the proposed new boundaries for each council district are posted on the website of the Geographic Information Systems Office of the Legislative Coordinating Commission.

Redistricting of the Metropolitan Council will affect the district boundaries of the Metropolitan Airports Commission, the Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission (advisory to the council), and TAB.

The MAC’s membership consists of 15 members:

- a chair appointed by the governor for a term of four years. The chair may be removed at the pleasure of the governor;

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- the mayor of each of the cities of Minneapolis and Saint Paul, or a qualified voter appointed by the mayor, for the term of office as mayor;
- four members appointed by the governor from outside of the metropolitan area—two to represent local governments with “key” airports, and two to represent local governments with “intermediate” airports;
- eight members appointed from pairings of Metropolitan Council districts.

Minn. Stat. § 473.604, subd. 1, cl. (2).

Once the Metropolitan Council is redistricted, it will be up to the MAC to determine the MAC districts and whether new appointments are necessary. Under the statute, a member appointed from a district must live in the district and “For appointments after June 2, 2006, a member must have resided in the district for at least six months and in the state for at least one year immediately preceding the appointment.” Members from districts serve staggered four-year terms.