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The Perpich Center is an executive branch agency. It was created in 1985 to operate a residential arts high school and support arts education opportunities for K-12 students and teachers throughout Minnesota. The Perpich Center operates the Perpich Arts High School in Golden Valley, and Crosswinds Arts and Science School in Woodbury. It also operates the Perpich Arts Library. Minnesota Statutes, chapter 129C, provides the authority and responsibilities for the Perpich Center and its board of directors. Both the Perpich Arts High School and the Crosswinds School buildings have benefitted from state bonds in the recent past, and there are restrictions on the sale of that property.

In January 2017, the Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA) issued its report on the Perpich Center. The OLA found the Perpich Center's governing board and management have provided insufficient direction, oversight, and transparency. It recommended that the legislature consider whether to change the scope of the agency's statutory duties and pay particular attention to the question of whether Crosswinds School should remain part of the Perpich Center.

This bill abolishes the Perpich Center for Arts Education and creates an arts education specialist position within the Department of Education. The Perpich Center would close effective June 30, 2018. Property in the Perpich Arts Library would be transferred to the State Library Services Division of the Department of Education. The Perpich Center would submit proposals to convey the property of the Perpich Arts High School and the Crosswinds School by January 15, 2018; if they do not submit the proposal, the property would be transferred to the Department of Administration.