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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3571

02/23/2026 Authored by Bakeberg, Tabke, Cha and McDonald
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Elections Finance and Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to local government; allowing watershed districts to self-insure for certain
1.3 employee health benefits; making technical changes; amending Minnesota Statutes
1.4 2024, section 471.617, subdivisions 1, 2, 4, 4a.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.617, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.7 Subdivision 1. If more than 100 employees; conditions. A statutory or home rule
1.8 charter city, county, school district, watershed district, or instrumentality thereof which has
1.9 more than 100 employees, may by ordinance or resolution self-insure for any employee
1.10 health benefits including long-term disability, but not for employee life benefits. Any
1.11 self-insurance plan shall provide all benefits which are required by law to be provided by
1.12 group health insurance policies. Self-insurance plans must be certified as provided by section
1.13 62E.05 and must be filed and certified by the Department of Commerce before they are
1.14 issued or delivered to any person in this state.

1.15 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.617, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.16 Subd. 2. Jointly. Any two or more statutory or home rule charter cities, counties, school
1.17 districts, watershed districts, or instrumentalities thereof which together have more than
1.18 100 employees may jointly self-insure for any employee health benefits including long-term
1.19 disability, but not for employee life benefits, subject to the same requirements as an individual
1.20 self-insurer under subdivision 1. Self-insurance pools under this section are subject to section
1.21 62L.045. A self-insurance pool established and operated by one or more service cooperatives
1.22 governed by section 123A.21 to provide coverage described in this subdivision qualifies
1.23 under this subdivision, but the individual school district members of such a pool shall not

2.1 be considered to be self-insured for purposes of section 471.6161, subdivision 8, paragraph  
 2.2 (g). The commissioner of commerce may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 14, providing  
 2.3 standards or guidelines for the operation and administration of self-insurance pools.

2.4 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.617, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

2.5 Subd. 4. **Exclusive representative.** (a) No statutory or home rule charter city ~~or~~, county  
 2.6 ~~or~~, school district, watershed district, or instrumentality of any of them shall adopt a ~~self~~  
 2.7 ~~insured~~ self-insured health benefit plan for any employees represented by an exclusive  
 2.8 representative certified pursuant to section 179A.12 without prior notification and  
 2.9 consultation on ten days' written notice to the exclusive representative and agreement by  
 2.10 the exclusive representative that represents the largest number of employees to be included  
 2.11 in the plan.

2.12 (b) Prior to a decision to dissolve any self-insurance, trust fund, or dedicated insurance  
 2.13 fund created by a single statutory or home rule charter city, county, school district, watershed  
 2.14 district, or instrumentality of any of them, either by ordinance or resolution, the employer  
 2.15 must provide 30 days' written notice to each exclusive representative of employees and each  
 2.16 individual currently receiving health benefits, and also obtain approval for the proposed  
 2.17 action by the exclusive representative that represents the largest number of employees  
 2.18 included in the plan. All assets from the trust fund must be audited before closure, and  
 2.19 remaining assets must be dedicated for use for health insurance benefits for all individuals  
 2.20 currently receiving health benefits. This paragraph does not apply to joint self-insurance  
 2.21 trusts or pools.

2.22 (c) The assets or liabilities of a joint self-insurance trust or pool that is dissolved must  
 2.23 be distributed to members of the joint trust or pool in accordance with the joint trust or pool  
 2.24 agreement, if any.

2.25 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 471.617, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

2.26 Subd. 4a. **May choose, pay for insurance.** A statutory or home rule charter city, county,  
 2.27 school district, watershed district, or instrumentality of any of these entities with a  
 2.28 self-insurance health benefit plan, may, upon request of the exclusive representative of its  
 2.29 employees as certified pursuant to section 179A.12, allow the employees of the exclusive  
 2.30 representative to enroll, at their own expense, in the health insurance benefit plan.