

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 4415

(SENATE AUTHORS: CLARK)

DATE
03/12/2026

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to State and Local Government

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; establishing the Council on Central and Eastern
1.3 European Affairs; requiring reports; appropriating money; proposing coding for
1.4 new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 15.

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

1.6 Section 1. [15.0148] COUNCIL ON CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPEAN
1.7 AFFAIRS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Council established. The Council on Central and Eastern European
1.9 Affairs is established to provide representation for Minnesotans from Central and Eastern
1.10 Europe, some of whom have arrived in the United States as refugees or humanitarian parolees
1.11 due to war, displacement, or political upheaval. These communities face barriers to accessing
1.12 government programs and lack a specific community representative to connect citizen input
1.13 with policy makers.

1.14 Subd. 2. Membership. (a) Members of the Council on Central and Eastern European
1.15 Affairs includes public members with ethnic heritage from countries in Central and Eastern
1.16 Europe, including but not limited to Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Kosovo,
1.17 Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, and
1.18 Ukraine.

1.19 (b) The council shall have 15 voting members consisting of:

1.20 (1) 11 public members appointed by the governor who broadly represent Minnesota's
1.21 Central and Eastern European communities. The council shall include at least five public
1.22 members who are female. The governor shall ensure the demographic composition of the

2.1 public members reflects the Central and Eastern European population of Minnesota, including
2.2 recent immigrants; and

2.3 (2) four legislative members with one member appointed by the speaker of the house,
2.4 one member appointed by the house minority leader, and the Subcommittee on Committees
2.5 of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration shall appoint one member from the
2.6 majority caucus and one member from the minority caucus. The four legislators shall be
2.7 voting members.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Appointments; terms; removal.** (a) In making appointments to the council,
2.9 the governor shall consider an appointee's proven dedication to the Central and Eastern
2.10 European community and any expertise beneficial to the council, including public policy,
2.11 legal affairs, social work, business, or management.

2.12 (b) Terms, compensation, and filling of vacancies are as provided in section 15.059.
2.13 Removal of members is governed by section 15.059, except: (1) a member who missed
2.14 more than half of the meetings in a 12-month period is automatically removed; and (2) a
2.15 member appointed by the governor may be removed by a vote of three of the four legislative
2.16 members of the council. Legislative members serve at the pleasure of their appointing
2.17 authority.

2.18 (c) A member appointed by the governor may serve no more than eight years. A legislator
2.19 may serve no more than eight consecutive or 12 nonconsecutive years.

2.20 Subd. 4. **Training; executive committee; meetings; support.** (a) Members appointed
2.21 by the governor must attend orientation training within the first six months. The commissioner
2.22 of administration must arrange training on the legislative process, open meeting law, fiscal
2.23 management, and human resources. Members who fail to complete the training shall be
2.24 removed.

2.25 (b) The council shall annually elect a chair and other officers from among the governor's
2.26 appointees. These officers and one legislative member selected by the council shall serve
2.27 as the executive committee.

2.28 (c) Forty percent of voting members in attendance constitutes a quorum. A member may
2.29 not vote on any action if they have a conflict of interest under section 10A.07.

2.30 (d) The commissioner of administration shall provide administrative support under
2.31 section 16B.371. The council may contract in its own name and apply for and expend grants
2.32 and gifts, but may not incur debt.

2.33 (e) The attorney general shall provide legal services to the council.

3.1 Subd. 5. **Executive director; staff.** (a) The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC)
3.2 shall appoint an executive director for the council who serves in the unclassified service at
3.3 the pleasure of the LCC.

3.4 (b) The LCC must establish a process for recruiting and selecting applicants in
3.5 consultation with the council.

3.6 (c) The executive director and the council shall work together on fulfilling duties.

3.7 (d) The LCC supervises the executive director. The executive director shall appoint and
3.8 supervise staff as necessary.

3.9 (e) The executive director shall submit the council's biennial budget request to the
3.10 commissioner of management and budget as provided under chapter 16A.

3.11 Subd. 6. **Duties of the council; duties of council members.** (a) The council shall work
3.12 for the economic, social, legal, and political equality of Central and Eastern European
3.13 Minnesotans by:

3.14 (1) advising the governor and legislature on issues confronting Central and Eastern
3.15 European communities;

3.16 (2) recommending administrative or legislative changes;

3.17 (3) serving as a liaison between the state government and Central and Eastern European
3.18 organizations;

3.19 (4) performing or contracting studies on education, employment, health, housing, and
3.20 related issues; and

3.21 (5) collaborating with other ethnic councils on issues of shared concern.

3.22 (b) Council members shall attend meetings, maintain communication with their
3.23 communities, collaborate with the council and executive director, and participate in activities
3.24 advancing the council's duties.

3.25 Subd. 7. **Reports.** The council shall report on measurable outcomes achieved in its
3.26 strategic plan along with objectives and outcome measures for the coming year. The report
3.27 shall be submitted by January 15 each year to the chairs and ranking minority members of
3.28 the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over state government operations. The
3.29 biennial budget must be submitted to the LCC by February 1 in each odd-numbered year.

4.1 Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.

4.2 \$700,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general fund to the Council on
4.3 Central and Eastern European Affairs for operations, staffing, and outreach. The general
4.4 fund base for this appropriation is \$700,000 in fiscal year 2028.