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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **806**

02/08/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Elections

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to state government; establishing a Minnesota Citizens Federal Oversight
- 1.3 Committee; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 3.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. **[3.3007] MINNESOTA CITIZENS FEDERAL OVERSIGHT**
- 1.6 **COMMITTEE.**
- 1.7 Subdivision 1. **Committee established; purpose.** A Minnesota Citizens Federal
- 1.8 Oversight Committee is established. The purpose of the committee is to monitor, understand,
- 1.9 and educate the public on the activities of the federal government, including the activities
- 1.10 and priorities of the senators and representatives representing Minnesota in the United States
- 1.11 Congress, and the impact of those activities and priorities on the state and its citizens.
- 1.12 Subd. 2. **Membership; terms.** (a) The committee consists of the following members:
- 1.13 (1) two members appointed by the governor to represent each congressional district of
- 1.14 the state, provided that one appointee from each district must support the political party
- 1.15 receiving the highest number of votes at the most recent election for governor in that district,
- 1.16 and one appointee from each district must support the political party receiving the
- 1.17 second-highest number of votes at the most recent election for governor in that district; and
- 1.18 (2) eight at-large members appointed by the legislature, as follows:
- 1.19 (i) two members must be appointed by the speaker of the house, at least one of whom
- 1.20 must reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area and outside of a city of the first class;

(ii) two members appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives, at least one of whom must reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area and outside of a city of the first class;

(iii) two members appointed by the president of the senate, at least one of whom must reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area and outside of a city of the first class; and

(iv) two members appointed by the minority leader of the senate, at least one of whom must reside outside of the 11-county metropolitan area and outside of a city of the first class.

(b) Terms, compensation, and removal of committee members is governed by section 15.059, except that the compensation of members is limited only to reimbursement for expenses authorized under section 15.059, subdivision 3. A member is eligible for reappointment to the committee for no more than one additional term.

(c) The committee must elect a chair and other officers from among its membership. A member is eligible to serve as chair for no more than two years.

Subd. 3. Qualifications for membership. To be eligible for appointment to the committee, an individual must not have served in any of the following roles:

(1) an official elected or appointed to any federal, state, or local public office, or the spouse of any of those officials, at any time preceding the appointment;

(2) a public official, as defined in section 10A.01, subdivision 35, at any time preceding the appointment;

(3) a registered lobbyist under section 10A.03 at any time preceding the appointment;

(4) an elected or appointed officer, other than a precinct delegate, of a major or minor political party at any time during the ten years preceding the appointment.

Subd. 4. Open meetings; rotating location. The committee must meet at least quarterly at locations that rotate throughout the state. Meetings of the committee are subject to chapter 13D.

Subd. 5. Responsibilities. (a) The committee is responsible for conducting hearings and engaging in other work as necessary to further the purposes established in subdivision 1. Among its activities, the committee:

(1) may conduct hearings at which federal officials representing Minnesota are requested to attend and provide information on federal programs, activities, and legislative initiatives, provided that the committee may not request that an elected federal official provide

3.1 information that is protected from disclosure by the United States Constitution or other
3.2 applicable law;

3.3 (2) may conduct hearings at which members of the public may testify about their
3.4 experience interacting with federal agencies or federal elected officials;

3.5 (3) may prepare reports or other materials intended to educate Minnesotans about federal
3.6 activities, including legislative initiatives and priorities and the publicly documented positions
3.7 of Minnesota's elected federal officials on those initiatives and priorities; and

3.8 (4) may conduct any other activities that the committee determines appropriate to further
3.9 its mission.

3.10 (b) The work of the committee may not include any partisan activity, including endorsing
3.11 or campaigning for any candidate for elected office, or endorsing or opposing enactment
3.12 of any specific items of legislation or initiatives pending in Congress or within a federal
3.13 agency.

3.14 Subd. 6. **Staff.** The Legislative Coordinating Committee must provide research and
3.15 administrative services to support the work of the committee.

3.16 Subd. 7. **Annual report required.** No later than January 15 of each year, the committee
3.17 must submit a report to the governor and chairs and ranking minority members of the
3.18 legislative committees with jurisdiction over ways and means and state government
3.19 operations describing the committee's work.

3.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.21 Sec. 2. **MINNESOTA CITIZENS FEDERAL OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE; FIRST**
3.22 **APPOINTMENTS.**

3.23 Initial appointments to the Minnesota Citizens Federal Oversight Committee must be
3.24 made by each appointing authority no later than July 15, 2021. Each appointing authority
3.25 must designate the term of initial appointees as necessary to comply with the staggered
3.26 terms requirement of Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 2. The speaker of the
3.27 house must designate one appointee to convene the committee's first meeting. The
3.28 committee's first meeting must be held no later than August 15, 2021.