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HOUSE FILE No. 3569

FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT

February 28, 2008

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

Referred by Chair to Higher Education and Work Force Development Policy and Finance Division.

March 7, 2008

Returned to the Education Finance and Economic Competitiveness Finance Division as Amended.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to workers' health; directing the University of Minnesota to study
1.3 workers' health including lung health; appropriating money.
1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA WORKERS'**
1.6 **HEALTH STUDY.**

1.7 (a) \$4,900,000 in fiscal year 2008 is appropriated from the workers' compensation
1.8 special fund under Minnesota Statutes, section 176.129, to the Board of Regents of
1.9 the University of Minnesota for the purposes of this section. Notwithstanding section
1.10 176.129, subdivision 6, the appropriation must be used for a study of workers' health. The
1.11 study must include a comprehensive science and evidence-based study of workers' lung
1.12 health. The university, as the lead agency, must develop, conduct and coordinate the study
1.13 in partnership with the Department of Health, the Department of Natural Resources, the
1.14 Pollution Control Agency, business and industry, local health providers and organizations,
1.15 other affected groups, and other state, federal, and local agencies. This is a onetime
1.16 appropriation that does not cancel and is available until expended.

1.17 (b) At a minimum, the study funded under this section must include industry-specific
1.18 worker mortality and morbidity studies, clinical disease studies, exposure assessments,
1.19 case-control screening of current and former workers, and environmental studies that
1.20 assess health impacts on workers and communities. The university must begin the studies
1.21 in 2008 and complete them no later than 2013. The university, in conjunction with
1.22 its partners in the workers' health study, must report annually to the committees of the
1.23 legislature with responsibility for health and workers' safety until the study is completed.

- 2.1 Each annual report must present the preliminary findings of the workers' health studies
- 2.2 and recommendations based on those findings.