

Subject Peacetime emergencies

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Summary

This bill modifies the length of, and termination process for, peacetime emergencies declared by the governor.

Under current law, a peacetime emergency lasts no more than five days unless extended by the state's other constitutional officers (i.e., the Executive Council) up to 30 days, and the legislature can terminate a peacetime emergency by a majority vote of both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Under H.F. 21, a peacetime emergency would expire after 14 days unless the governor requests and the legislature approves an extension. A three-fifths supermajority vote of both the House and Senate would be required to extend an emergency.

Background: under current law and H.F. 21, a governor may declare a peacetime emergency only in specific circumstances. These circumstances are found on page 1 of the bill. When a peacetime emergency is in effect, the governor has certain emergency powers under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 12, including issuing executive orders that have the force and effect of law if approved by the Executive Council and filed with the secretary of state.