Demystifying the Work of People of Faith in the Political Process

Coordinator of Neighborhood Ministry Jim Bargmann



God's love and God's power seek *shalom*

Human sin is human brokenness and distorts the calling to work for the well-being of all



God's people approach civic life with trust in God and realism and humility about human efforts

We affirm that civic institutions remain God's gifts



Our baptismal vocation may be fulfilled in civic places of responsibility

Seeking the well-being of the community is using God's gifts



Liturgy prepares people to join God's work in civic life

We have a calling to encourage discernment and provide spaces for difficult conversations



There is a prophetic task for those who follow Jesus

Was Jesus political? What about the prophets or Paul or other Biblical examples?



Politics is essential to civic well-being and of concern to God's people

The Lutheran tradition respect for and cooperation but also a responsibility to call to account



Does government and political authority increase power and its beneficial use among the people governed?



Legality & Ethics

The First Amendment does not prohibit or discourage the application of religious convictions to public life



Legality & Ethics

"Work with civil authorities in areas of mutual endeavor...and in a relation of functional interaction."

Christ's church should not bless any particular political theory





Ways to Engage

Social Service

Self-Help

Research and Education

Advocacy

Direct Action Organizing







How an Idea Becomes Legislation

Idea

Bill

House Committees House Floor

Senate Committees Senate Floor Passage

Conference Committee





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> 1.21 21



KEY: stricken = removed, old language. underscored = added, new language.

Version List Authors and Status

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eg. 2.1

Current Version - as introduced

A bill for an act

relating to housing; establishing a state rent assistance program for low-income, cost-burdened households; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 462A.05, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 462A.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 462A.05, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

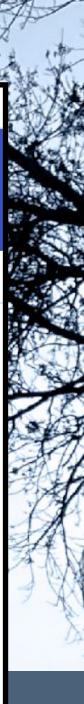
Subd. 42. Rent assistance program. The agency may administer the rent assistance program established in section 462A.2095.

Sec. 2. [462A.2095] RENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. Program established. The state rent assistance account is established as a separate account in the housing development fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the agency for grants to local housing authorities for the purposes specified in this section.

Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given them.

(b) "Eligible person" means an individual or family with an annual income of up to 50 percent of the area median income as determined by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, adjusted for family size, that is paying more than 30 percent of the individual's or family's annual income on rent. Eligibility is determined at the time an individual or family first receives rent assistance under this section. Eligible person does not include an individual or family receiving federal tenant-based or project-based assistance





Committees









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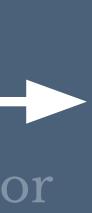
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