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**Sponsor:** Community & Economic Development

**Meeting Date:** 12/2/2025

**Title:** Ramsey County Economic Development Authority  
Implementation

**File Number:** 2025-491

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**Background and Rationale:**

In furthering the implementation of the goals, strategies and recommended actions identified in the 2019 Economic Competitiveness & Inclusion (ECI) Plan, Ramsey County sought flexibility in the use of Housing and Redevelopment Authority (HRA) levy funding to support small business and entrepreneurship programming. Ramsey County sought a statutory change through the Minnesota Legislature during the 2024 and 2025 Legislative sessions. Ramsey County was successful in obtaining the legislative approval in 2025.

The legislation was comprised of two parts: (1) the creation of the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority (EDA); (2) the expansion of the eligibility of uses for Housing and Redevelopment Authority levy funding to allow for programming that supports small businesses and entrepreneurs.

The legislation is explicit in that the Ramsey County EDA does not have tax levy authority; this is intentional as the EDA will only receive and spend funding from the existing HRA levy and requires cities within Ramsey County HRA's area of operation to provide a resolution of support for this expanded use of HRA funding. Cities who choose not to opt-in to this expanded use of eligibility will continue to retain current programmatic uses of HRA funding, e.g. investments in affordable housing infrastructure, Emerging and Diverse Developers, First Home downpayment assistance, Critical Corridors, Site Assessment Grants, etc.

This board action is the first of several steps to formally establish and implement the EDA. The first step required under Minnesota Statute 645.021 (Special Laws) is the Ramsey County Board, by a majority vote, approve the creation of the EDA prior to the beginning of the next legislative session. The Chief Clerk must file with the Secretary of State a Certificate "stating the essential facts necessary to valid Board Approval which must include a copy of the resolution of approval." This step is necessary so that the law is not deemed "disapproved" by the State due to missing the Statute's mandatory time limit for Board approval. Additional steps that must be taken are the appointment of sitting commissioners, revising the area of EDA/HRA operation, and revisions to the Administrative Code to reflect a new entity. These steps are necessary, however, may be undertaken after Board approval and filing of the Certificate with the Secretary of State.

In 2025, the state legislature passed a law to allow this establishment, specific to Ramsey County. The Ramsey County EDA will not have tax levy authority; this is intentional as the EDA will only receive and spend funding from the existing HRA levy. This allows additional flexibility of funding from the HRA levy, which is limited by statute to spending on affordable housing and redevelopment purposes only. This board action is the first of multiple steps to establish and implement the EDA.

**Recommendation:**

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners resolved to:

1. Create the Ramsey County Economic Development Authority.
2. Direct the Chief Clerk to execute the certificate and file a copy with the Minnesota Secretary of State.

A motion to approve was made by Commissioner Xiong, seconded by Commissioner Miller.

Motion passed.

Aye: - 6: Jebens-Singh, McMurtrey, Miller, Moran, Ortega, and Xiong

Excused: - 1: McGuire

By:   
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Jason Yang, Chief Clerk - County Board