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Gender Equity in Indoor Ice Arenas

The 1994 Legislature enacted a new law designed to assure gender equity in provision of prime time in indoor ice arenas.

The 1994 Legislature required that if an indoor arena provides more prime ice time to groups of one gender than to groups of the other gender, the arena may not deny a request for prime ice time from a group of the underrepresented gender. For purposes of this law, "prime ice time" is from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on weekends.

The new law (Minn. Stat. §15.98) applies to any indoor arena that makes ice time available to the public. However, any group that generates revenue as a result of tickets sold for arena events does not count in determining gender equity.

The law provides a phase-in schedule for gender equity. Groups of the underrepresented gender must be allowed prime ice time as follows:

- 15 percent for the 1994-1994 season;
- 30 percent by the 1995-1996 season; and
- 50 percent by the 1996-1997 season.

The law provides several conditions. First, the group of the underrepresented gender must pay the same price as other groups. Second, the law does not require an arena to give more ice time to any one group than generally is allocated to other groups. Finally, the law does not affect a political subdivision's ability to grant preference to groups based in the political subdivision, provided this preference is not based on gender.

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