

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 452

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/02/2015	183	Introduction and first reading Referred to Health, Human Services and Housing
03/05/2015	558a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance
03/09/2015	616	Author stricken Rosen

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to human services; establishing a jobs and health innovation grant
 1.3 program for hard-to-employ Minnesotans; requiring reports; appropriating
 1.4 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256E.

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

1.6 Section 1. [256E.365] JOBS AND HEALTH INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM
 1.7 FOR HARD-TO-EMPLOY MINNESOTANS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner shall establish a grant program
 1.9 with the goal of creating new jobs for long-term and chronically unemployed Minnesotans
 1.10 who are frequent and costly users of state and county interventions and services. The target
 1.11 population for the grant program includes individuals who rely heavily on government
 1.12 services, such as veterans, individuals who have recently been released from incarceration,
 1.13 and individuals with mental illness and chemical addiction.

1.14 Subd. 2. **Objectives.** The grant program must:

1.15 (1) provide an incentive for the private employment sector to generate new
 1.16 employment opportunities for the targeted population; and

1.17 (2) foster cross-agency collaboration at the state and local levels and reduce
 1.18 government costs by eliminating inefficiencies due to lack of coordination between local
 1.19 and state agencies, and applying best practices relating to the coordination and provision
 1.20 of services.

1.21 Subd. 3. **Selection of grant recipients.** (a) The commissioner shall award grants
 1.22 under this section.

1.23 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant, an applicant must be a nonprofit organization
 1.24 located in this state, and must:

- 2.1 (1) commit to creating new full-time or part-time positions for the targeted population;
 2.2 (2) demonstrate a clear plan for creating new jobs and verify that the funds will not
 2.3 be used to preserve or fund existing jobs;
 2.4 (3) demonstrate how the needs of the targeted population, such as housing, mental and
 2.5 chemical health services, and preventative health care will be addressed and coordinated;
 2.6 (4) explain how employment opportunities will be coordinated with housing,
 2.7 behavioral health, and other critical support services intended to ensure that program
 2.8 participants become stable, contributing members of their communities; and
 2.9 (5) outline how the proposed employment strategies will reduce federal, state, and
 2.10 local government costs, including public spending for shelter, food assistance, emergency
 2.11 health care, incarceration, and other public safety costs.

2.12 (c) When awarding grants under this section, preference must be given to eligible
 2.13 organizations that demonstrate the ability to meet the objectives set forth in Laws 2007,
 2.14 chapter 54, article 1, section 19.

2.15 Subd. 4. **Reporting requirements.** (a) An organization receiving a grant under this
 2.16 section must report annually to the commissioner on the numbers of program participants
 2.17 who:

- 2.18 (1) were employed full time or part time;
 2.19 (2) made child support payments, if applicable; and
 2.20 (3) avoided institutionalization or incarceration.

2.21 (b) The commissioner shall submit an annual report on the progress of the grant
 2.22 program by January 15 each year to the senate and house of representatives committees
 2.23 with jurisdiction over health, human services, and employment and economic development.

2.24 Subd. 5. **Grant awards.** Grants must be awarded to up to three organizations
 2.25 per biennium.

2.26 Subd. 6. **Match.** In order to qualify for a grant, applicants must match, on a
 2.27 one-to-one basis, the amount of state funds awarded with nonstate funds.

2.28 **Sec. 2. REPORT.**

2.29 The commissioner of human services, in consultation with the commissioner of
 2.30 management and budget, shall calculate the savings generated to the state through
 2.31 reduced state spending on government services resulting from implementation of the
 2.32 grant program established in Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.365, and shall examine
 2.33 the feasibility of replenishing funding for the grant program by utilizing the anticipated
 2.34 savings. The commissioner of human services must report findings under this section to

3.1 the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over human services
3.2 by January 15, 2016.

3.3 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.4 \$4,000,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund to the
3.5 commissioner of human services for the grant program described in section 1. This
3.6 appropriation does not cancel and is available until expended. This appropriation
3.7 is ongoing. No more than two percent of the appropriation may be used for the
3.8 administration of the grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 256E.365.