

1.1 ..... moves to amend H.F. No. 614, the first engrossment, as follows:

1.2 Page 3, after line 34, insert:

1.3 "Sec. .... **[144.1503] HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**  
1.4 **EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

1.5 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** The home and community-based services employee  
1.6 scholarship grant program is established for the purpose of assisting qualified provider  
1.7 applicants to provide employee scholarships for education in nursing and other health  
1.8 care fields.

1.9 Subd. 2. **Provision of grants.** The commissioner shall make grants available  
1.10 to qualified providers of older adult services. Grants must be used by home and  
1.11 community-based service providers to recruit and train staff in their settings through the  
1.12 establishment of an employee scholarship fund within the setting.

1.13 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** Eligible providers must primarily provide services to  
1.14 individuals who are 65 years of age and older in home and community-based settings,  
1.15 including housing with services establishments, adult day centers, and home care agencies.  
1.16 Qualifying providers must have an established home and community-based employee  
1.17 scholarship program, as specified in subdivision 4. Providers that receive funding under  
1.18 this section must use the funds to award scholarships to employees who work an average  
1.19 of at least 16 hours per week for the provider.

1.20 Subd. 4. **Home and community-based employee scholarship program.**  
1.21 Each qualifying provider under this section must have an established home and  
1.22 community-based services employee scholarship program. Providers may establish  
1.23 criteria by which funds are distributed among employees. At a minimum, the scholarship  
1.24 program must cover employee costs related to a course of study that is expected to lead to  
1.25 career advancement with the provider or in the field of long-term care, including home  
1.26 care, care of persons with disabilities, or nursing.

2.1 Subd. 5. **Participating providers.** The commissioner shall publish a request  
 2.2 for proposals in the State Register by August 15, 2015, specifying provider eligibility  
 2.3 requirements, provider selection criteria, program specifics, funding mechanism, and  
 2.4 methods of evaluation. The commissioner must publish additional requests for proposals  
 2.5 by August 15 of each year in which funding is appropriated for this purpose.

2.6 Subd. 6. **Reporting requirements.** Participating providers shall report to the  
 2.7 commissioner on a schedule determined by the commissioner and on a form supplied by  
 2.8 the commissioner no later than October 1, 2017. The report shall include the amount spent;  
 2.9 number of employees who received scholarships; and, for each scholarship recipient,  
 2.10 the name of the recipient, the amount awarded, the educational institution attended, the  
 2.11 nature of the educational program, and the expected or actual program completion date.  
 2.12 The commissioner shall require providers to repay all of the funds awarded under this  
 2.13 section if the report required under this subdivision is not filed according to the schedule  
 2.14 determined by the commissioner."

2.15 Page 5, line 6, after the second semicolon, insert "career ladder rate adjustments  
 2.16 under subdivision 65;"

2.17 Page 6, after line 8, insert:

2.18 "(k) The portion related to career ladder rate adjustments shall be determined under  
 2.19 subdivision 65."

2.20 Page 6, line 9, delete "(k)" and insert "(l)"

2.21 Page 6, line 10, delete "(j)" and insert "(k)"

2.22 Page 6, after line 10, insert:

2.23 "Sec. .... Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 256B.441, is amended by adding a  
 2.24 subdivision to read:

2.25 Subd. 65. **Career ladder rate adjustment.** (a) Effective beginning January 1, 2016,  
 2.26 the commissioner shall make available rate adjustments for nursing facilities to implement  
 2.27 career ladder wage increases for participants in leadership or apprenticeship programs.  
 2.28 These rate adjustments shall be added to the external fixed portion of the rate and must be  
 2.29 used for the wage increases and associated costs including the employer's share of FICA  
 2.30 taxes, Medicare taxes, state and federal unemployment taxes, and workers' compensation  
 2.31 provided to employees who are participating in, or have completed, leadership training or  
 2.32 an apprenticeship program approved by either the commissioner of labor and industry  
 2.33 or the commissioner of human services.

2.34 (b) Nursing facilities apply to the commissioner on the forms and according to the  
 2.35 timelines specified by the commissioner in order to receive a rate adjustment for the

3.1 career ladder wage increases. Applications for each rate year beginning on October 1 are  
 3.2 due by the previous August 31.

3.3 (c) Nursing facilities applying for a rate adjustment for leadership training or  
 3.4 apprenticeship programs shall include on the application the estimated number of  
 3.5 employees who will be participating in the leadership training or apprenticeship programs  
 3.6 during the rate year, the wage increase those employees will be paid as a result of their  
 3.7 apprenticeship, and the number of hours they are expected to work during the year for  
 3.8 the increase. The maximum rate increase for apprenticeship programs shall be computed  
 3.9 as the estimated hours times the wage increases divided by the actual resident days from  
 3.10 the most recent statistical and cost report.

3.11 (d) If the costs from all proposals exceed the appropriation for this purpose, the  
 3.12 commissioner shall allocate the money appropriated on a pro rata basis to the applying  
 3.13 facilities by reducing the rate adjustment determined for each facility by an equal  
 3.14 percentage.

3.15 (e) Participating nursing facilities must submit to the commissioner a report after  
 3.16 the end of the rate year to determine how much was actually spent on wage increases for  
 3.17 leadership training and apprenticeship program participants. The commissioner shall  
 3.18 recoup the difference between actual and expected funding from a nursing facility found  
 3.19 to have spent less than 90 percent of what the facility had expected to spend based on  
 3.20 the rate increase authorized by the commissioner. The commissioner shall adjust the  
 3.21 rate adjustment to reflect the actual cost of wage increases under this subdivision if the  
 3.22 actual cost exceeds the estimated cost."

3.23 Page 7, after line 10, insert:

3.24 "Sec. .... **APPROPRIATION; WORKFORCE CENTERS.**

3.25 \$..... in fiscal year 2016 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner  
 3.26 of employment and economic development for purposes of enhancing or establishing new  
 3.27 programs within Minnesota Workforce Centers to address the shortage of paid caregivers  
 3.28 in senior care settings in Minnesota. Programs may include, but are not limited to,  
 3.29 screening of potential candidates for caregiving careers, promotion of vacant caregiving  
 3.30 positions, training of potential caregivers, and placement of caregivers in nursing facilities,  
 3.31 housing with services establishments, home care agencies, and adult day centers."

3.32 Page 7, after line 15, insert:

3.33 "Sec. .... **APPROPRIATION; HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES**  
 3.34 **EMPLOYEE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**

4.1 \$..... in fiscal year 2016 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner  
 4.2 of health for the purposes of the home and community-based services employee  
 4.3 scholarship program under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.1503.

4.4 Sec. .... **APPROPRIATION; CAREER LADDER RATE ADJUSTMENT.**

4.5 \$..... in fiscal year 2016 and \$..... in fiscal year 2017 are appropriated from the  
 4.6 general fund to the commissioner of human services to cover the state share of providing  
 4.7 career ladder program rate adjustments under Minnesota Statutes, section 256B.441,  
 4.8 subdivision 65. This appropriation is added to the base for the fiscal 2018-2019 biennium."

4.9 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references

4.10 Amend the title accordingly