

Subject Appropriations; long-term care protection and support activities
Authors Liebling
Analyst Elisabeth Klarqvist
Date December 8, 2020

Overview

This bill appropriates money in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for long-term care protection and support activities, and to the commissioner of human services for contracts for a temporary staffing pool to provide temporary staff to long-term care facilities and other group residential facilities and programs experiencing a COVID-19-related staffing crisis.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Commissioner of health; long-term care protection and support activities; appropriations.</p> <p>Appropriates a total of \$4,440,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the listed long-term care protection and support activities.</p> <p>Subd. 1. COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities. Appropriates \$2,108,000 in fiscal year 2021 for contracts for teams to provide COVID-19 test specimen collection services in long-term care facilities and for activities of State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) staff to support COVID-19 testing in long-term care facilities.</p> <p>Subd. 2. COVID-19 testing for certain Department of Health staff. Appropriates \$333,000 in fiscal year 2021 to perform COVID-19 tests on Department of Health regulatory staff who must enter long-term care facilities to perform regulatory functions.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Nurse triage line. Appropriates \$480,000 in fiscal year 2021 for a contract for a nurse triage line that reports COVID-19 test results to residents and staff of certain long-term care facilities and responds to questions from these facilities.</p> |
|---|--|

Section Description

Subd. 4. Staffing support to prevent COVID-19 transmission in long-term care facilities. Appropriates \$631,000 in fiscal year 2021 for contracts with infection control nurses and health care worker monitoring staff for assessment, communications, and technical assistance activities to prevent COVID-19 transmission in long-term care facilities.

Subd. 5. Infection control strike teams. Appropriates \$888,000 in fiscal year 2021 to establish and deploy infection control strike teams to long-term care facilities experiencing an outbreak of COVID-19.

Subd. 6. Appropriation availability; cancellation. Specifies that these appropriations are onetime and are available until the earlier of 60 days after the expiration of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency or June 30, 2021. Provides that unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2 Commissioner of human services; temporary staffing pool; appropriation.

Paragraph (a) appropriates \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 from the general fund to the commissioner of human services to contract with third-party staffing entities for a temporary staffing pool that may be deployed to facilities and programs experiencing a COVID-19-related staffing crisis on or after January 1, 2021. Provides that temporary staff are provided at no cost to the facility or program.

Paragraph (b) states that members of the temporary staffing pool are not state employees.

Paragraph (c) requires the commissioner to coordinate temporary staffing pool activities with the listed commissioners and the State Emergency Operations Center to prioritize locations to receive temporary staff. Requires the commissioner to prioritize providing staff to facilities and programs with the most significant staffing crises.

Paragraph (d) provides that a facility or program may seek assistance from the temporary staffing pool only after using all available resources but being unable to meet the facility's or program's temporary staffing needs.

Paragraph (e) requires a facility or program receiving staffing assistance from the temporary staffing pool to continue to pay the salary or wages of any employees under isolation or quarantine due to COVID-19 infection or exposure.

Section **Description**

Paragraph (f) lists facilities and programs eligible to obtain temporary staff from the temporary staffing pool.

Paragraph (g) allows the commissioner to allocate funding to maintain and extend existing contracts, enter into new contracts, and for the costs of training, testing, and personal protective equipment of members of the temporary staffing pool.

Paragraph (h) specifies that this appropriation is onetime and is available until the earlier of 60 days after the expiration of the COVID-19 peacetime emergency or June 30, 2021. Provides that unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155