

Subject State COVID-19 expenditures

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Summary

This bill would use federal aid—rather than state dollars—to pay for several recently-enacted COVID-19 expenditures.

Beginning in March of this year, the legislature appropriated money from the state General Fund and a newly-created COVID-19 Minnesota Fund in response to the infectious disease COVID-19 and the corresponding peacetime emergency declared by Governor Tim Walz. In late March, the United States Congress passed, and President Donald Trump signed, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, Public Law 116-136. Among other things, the CARES Act established a Coronavirus Relief Fund to provide aid to state and local governments for necessary expenditures that are incurred due to the COVID-19 public health emergency. As amended, this bill would appropriate CARES Act dollars (which reside in the state's new Coronavirus Relief Federal Fund), as well as any other eligible federal aid received by the state.

As amended, the bill would use federal dollars to pay for specified expenditures previously enacted in law. This includes, but is not limited to, the following appropriations from the COVID-19 Minnesota Fund: \$2,255,000 to Department of Corrections for COVID-19 related demands (Action Order 7), \$36,000,000 to Department of Health for COVID-19 testing (Action Order 9), \$10,952,000 to Department of Agriculture for carcass disposal (Action Order 11), \$2,250,000 to Department of Health for community engagement (Action Order 12), and \$3,000,000 to Department of Health for regional mobile testing teams (Action Order 16).