

Subject Higher education: ALS research funding

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Summary

In 2022, the legislature appropriated \$20,000,000 to the Office of Higher Education for competitive grants to fund research on amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). This was a onetime appropriation and was originally available until June 30, 2026. Senator David Tomassoni, who sponsored this bill in the senate, was diagnosed with ALS in 2021. He passed away of the disease in August of 2022.

In 2024, the legislature extended the expiration of the funds to June 20, 2029, and allowed the bulk of the remaining funds to be transferred to ALS organizations to make grants under the same criteria. The most recent report on the grant program is available online [here](#).

\$15,000,000 of the original appropriation currently remains unencumbered. This bill would cancel that unencumbered amount and appropriate it to the University of Minnesota for a collaborative partnership with the Mayo Clinic to engage in ALS research. This is a onetime appropriation that is available until June 30, 2029. The bill also requires an annual report to the legislature from the university on the use of the funds.