

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 3171, the delete everything amendment
1.2 (A14-0977), as follows:

1.3 Page 63, after line 2, insert:

1.4 "Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 1,
1.5 is amended to read:

1.6 Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** There is established within the Office of
1.7 Early Learning an early learning scholarships program in order to increase access to
1.8 high-quality early childhood programs for children ages three to five.

1.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2014.

1.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 3, is
1.11 amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 3. **Administration.** (a) The ~~commissioner~~ director shall establish application
1.13 timelines and determine the schedule for awarding scholarships that meets operational
1.14 needs of eligible families and programs. The ~~commissioner~~ director may prioritize
1.15 applications on factors including family income, geographic location, and whether the
1.16 child's family is on a waiting list for a publicly funded program providing early education
1.17 or child care services.

1.18 (b) ~~Scholarships may be awarded up to \$5,000 for each eligible child per year~~ The
1.19 director annually must establish average scholarship amounts based on current available
1.20 market surveys of child care provider prices or other useful information. Average
1.21 scholarship amounts must be proportionate across regions or counties and the director
1.22 may adjust individual scholarship amounts to account for other assistance programs
1.23 available to a child or the child's family. The director may increase by up to 15 percent
1.24 the scholarship amount for children enrolled in a three-star Parent Aware rated program
1.25 and may increase by up to 20 percent the scholarship amount for children enrolled in

2.1 a four-star Parent Aware rated program so long as any increase added to the average
 2.2 scholarship amount does not exceed the actual program rate or tuition.

2.3 (c) A four-star rated program that has children eligible for a scholarship enrolled in
 2.4 or on a waiting list for a program beginning in July, August, or September may notify the
 2.5 ~~commissioner~~ director, in the form and manner prescribed by the ~~commissioner~~ director,
 2.6 each year of the program's desire to enhance program services or to serve more children
 2.7 than current funding provides. The ~~commissioner~~ director may designate a predetermined
 2.8 number of scholarship slots for that program and notify the program of that number.

2.9 (d) A scholarship is awarded for a 12-month period. If the scholarship recipient has
 2.10 not been accepted and subsequently enrolled in a rated program within ten months of the
 2.11 awarding of the scholarship, the scholarship cancels and the recipient must reapply in
 2.12 order to be eligible for another scholarship. A child may not be awarded more than one
 2.13 scholarship in a 12-month period.

2.14 (e) A child who receives a scholarship who has not completed development
 2.15 screening under sections 121A.16 to 121A.19 must complete that screening within 90
 2.16 days of first attending an eligible program.

2.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.18 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 124D.165, subdivision 4, is
 2.19 amended to read:

2.20 Subd. 4. **Early childhood program eligibility.** (a) In order to be eligible to accept
 2.21 an early childhood education scholarship, a program must:

2.22 (1) participate in the quality rating and improvement system under section
 2.23 124D.142; and

2.24 (2) beginning before July 1, 2016, have a three- or four-star rating satisfy the director
 2.25 of its ongoing commitment to participate in the quality rating and improvement system.

2.26 (b) After July 1, 2016, the director may determine that a program not participating in
 2.27 the quality rating and improvement system is eligible to participate if:

2.28 (1) the program provider cites a hardship or special circumstance to indicate why
 2.29 the program is not yet rated; or

2.30 (2) the director determines through a separate evaluation or review that the program
 2.31 is eligible to participate.

2.32 (c) Any program accepting scholarships must use the revenue to supplement and not
 2.33 supplant federal funding."

2.34 Page 63, line 5, strike "commissioner" and insert "director"

2.35 Page 63, line 9, delete "commissioner" and insert "director"

- 3.1 Renumber the sections in sequence and correct the internal references
- 3.2 Amend the title accordingly