

2022 SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET PROPOSALS

SUPPORTING WORKING FAMILIES



Recognizing frontline workers

The governor recommends \$1 billion to provide payments to frontline workers who have sacrificed during the pandemic to keep Minnesotans safe, healthy, fed and cared for. This proposal would provide \$1,500 payments to an estimated 667,000 workers, including health care, childcare, school, grocery store, food service, transportation, building service, public safety, retail and manufacturing workers. These frontline worker payments recognize the essential work of Minnesotans who have risked their health and continue to provide the vital services needed to keep our state running during this pandemic.



Paid family and medical leave

A comprehensive paid family and medical leave program would provide Minnesotans with economic stability, boost the economy, help retain workers and recognize that people need to be able to take time away from work to welcome a new family member, care for a sick loved one or recover from an illness or injury without losing their wages. Proposed funding of \$536,000 in FY23 and \$995,000 in FY24-25 for DLI would address education and compliance costs of the program and information technology systems upgrades.



Earned sick and safe time

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us how critically important it is for people to stay home from work when they are sick. Workers who go to work sick risk spreading illness to coworkers, customers and the public. Too many Minnesotans don't have access to earned sick and safe time and are forced to choose between going to work sick and not being able to pay their bills. This proposal would ensure workers can accrue up to 48 hours a year of earned sick and safe time for when they need to recover from an illness, go to a medical appointment, care for a child during a school closure, or get care and assistance due to domestic abuse, stalking or sexual assault. A proposed \$1.367 million in FY23 and \$3.724 million in FY24-25 would fund enforcement and compliance activities as well as outreach efforts.



Prevailing-wage education and compliance

Minnesota is estimated to receive more than \$6 billion in federal funding during the coming years, much of which will be used for public infrastructure projects covered by prevailing-wage laws. Prevailing-wage laws exist in Minnesota to ensure

projects funded with public money be constructed and maintained by the best means and highest quality of labor reasonably available and that persons working on public works be compensated according to the real value of the services they perform. A proposed base increase of \$1.758 million each year would fully fund the current prevailing-wage staff employed by the department, as well as additional staff necessary to provide education and enforcement to ensure our tax dollars are not promoting exploitative practices, such as wage theft.



Expand and strengthen fair labor standards for agricultural and food processing workers

The governor recommends \$196,000 in FY23 and \$146,000 each year thereafter to strengthen existing workplace protections for agricultural and food processing workers so a greater number of these workers are protected and aware of their workplace rights. This recommendation is among those made by the Committee for the Safety, Health, and Wellbeing of Agricultural and Food Processing Workers to improve housing, safety and labor standards for agricultural and food processing workers.

DEVELOPING A SKILLED AND DIVERSE WORKFORCE



Increasing equity in apprenticeship

The governor recommends a \$1.375 million operating increase to grow registered apprenticeship in Minnesota and train, reskill and upskill the state's workforce. The recommendation includes an increase to the Labor Education Advancement Program (LEAP) to better facilitate the participation and retention of women, people of color and Indigenous people in registered apprenticeship programs and employment in careers that pay a family-sustaining wage.



Growing opportunities for student learners

The Youth Skills Training program supports the development of partnerships among school districts, employers and other community organizations to offer safe, healthy and meaningful work experience to 16- and 17-year-old student learners. This proposal increases grant funding by \$500,000 each year and provides additional resources for staff needed to administer the program. By growing Youth Skills Training, more student learners would be better equipped to enter the workforce and select a course of education to contribute to their career path and more employers would have the skilled workers they need.



Employer support to build dual-training programs in legal cannabis industry

The Governor recommends funding for the safe and responsible legalization of cannabis for adults in Minnesota. An annual appropriation of \$121,000 to the Department of Labor and Industry would be used to support employers in the legal cannabis industry to build their own dual-training programs, which combines structured on-the-job training with formal related education, in the statutorily allowed industries within DLI's Minnesota Dual-Training Pipeline.

PROTECTING MINNESOTANS' HEALTH AND SAFETY



Keep penalties in line with federal OSHA

To be “at least as effective as” federal OSHA, Minnesota OSHA needs to align the penalties it issues to employers that fail to provide safe and healthy workplaces for their workers with federal OSHA penalties. The governor recommends conforming with federal maximum penalties and tying future penalties to inflation. Conformity would ensure continued federal funding and would encourage employers to take workplace safety and health violations more seriously and do more to keep workers safe.



Safe housing for the elderly and vulnerable adults

This proposal gives the agency regulatory oversight of assisted living facilities and assisted living with dementia care facilities licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health. Assisted living is the only remaining type of housing in Minnesota serving vulnerable adults not under DLI jurisdiction. This proposal would enable the agency to provide construction code reviews and inspections statewide to ensure these facilities designed for the elderly and vulnerable adults meet minimum safety standards.



Combative sports health and safety improvements

The governor recommends statutory changes to the Office of Combative Sports (OCS) to better protect combatant health and safety. Proposed changes improve OCS oversight of combative sports contests, clarify grievance procedures, address inconsistencies in statutory language and close regulatory loopholes that put combatants' health and safety at risk. A proposed annual general fund appropriation of \$150,000 would supplement fee revenue to fully support program operations.

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE



Improve energy efficiency in commercial and large multi-family buildings

Since 2005, greenhouse gas emissions in the commercial building sector have increased by 15%, partially driven by higher heating and cooling demands caused by a changing climate. The Governor recommends \$145,000 every three years to institute an adoption framework for the statewide commercial building energy code that ensures all new commercial and large multi-family construction is net-zero by 2036.