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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 42

01/11/2021 Authored by Howard; Reyer; Olson, L.; Moller and Bernardy
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; appropriating money for emergency services, isolation
1.3 spaces, and housing support.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY SERVICES.

1.6 (a) \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the
1.7 commissioner of human services for emergency services grants under Minnesota Statutes,
1.8 section 256E.36. Grant money may be used to:

1.9 (1) provide housing that promotes health and safety or to isolate homeless individuals
1.10 exposed to COVID-19 or who are experiencing a respiratory illness, including grant money
1.11 to provide additional shelter space, to purchase vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel
1.12 room, or to fund other housing options. Vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room must
1.13 not be issued to motels or hotels that receive funding from another source for the cost of
1.14 the same motel or hotel room for the same date;

1.15 (2) purchase hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies to comply with Centers for
1.16 Disease Control and Prevention guidance on sanitation and personal protective equipment;
1.17 and

1.18 (3) hire staff necessary to protect the health and wellness of program recipients, to
1.19 increase the number of persons served, or to provide staffing when workers are quarantined
1.20 or cannot work because they are caring for someone with COVID-19.

1.21 (b) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the commissioner of human services
1.22 may allocate money to programs, providers, and organizations providing or seeking to

2.1 provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness through a single fiscal agent
2.2 chosen by the commissioner of human services.

2.3 (c) Grant applicants must describe how the applicants intend to use grant money for the
2.4 purposes listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3). Grant money may be used by grant
2.5 recipients for the activities listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3).

2.6 (d) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days
2.7 after expiration of the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order
2.8 that relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, whichever occurs earlier. Any
2.9 unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

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

2.11 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; ISOLATION SPACES.**

2.12 (a) \$4,306,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the
2.13 commissioner of human services to establish and maintain isolation spaces for suspected
2.14 or confirmed COVID-19-positive individuals who are experiencing homelessness or who
2.15 cannot safely isolate at home and who do not require a hospital level of care.

2.16 (b) The commissioner of human services may enter into contracts or directly purchase
2.17 goods or services necessary to provide isolation spaces or services related to establishing
2.18 or maintaining such spaces. The commissioner of human services may enter into contracts
2.19 under this paragraph with local units of government as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section
2.20 4A.07, subdivision 1, paragraph (a); tribal governments; and nonprofit organizations.

2.21 (c) Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the commissioner of human services
2.22 may:

2.23 (1) allocate funding to maintain and extend existing contracts for isolation spaces entered
2.24 into with Coronavirus Relief Funds awarded as a result of 2020 Legislative Advisory
2.25 Commission order number 48; and

2.26 (2) enter into new contracts with eligible entities under Minnesota Statutes, section
2.27 12.36.

2.28 (d) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days
2.29 after expiration of the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order
2.30 that relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, whichever occurs earlier. Any
2.31 unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

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

3.1 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; HOUSING SUPPORT.**

3.2 (a) \$4,235,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the
3.3 commissioner of human services to increase room and board rates under Minnesota Statutes,
3.4 chapter 256I, by 10.7 percent for purposes of maintaining access to room and board, including
3.5 activities necessary to comply with federal and state health and safety guidance in response
3.6 to the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a onetime appropriation.

3.7 (b) Prior to July 1, 2021, providers must submit documentation to the commissioner of
3.8 human services demonstrating increased funding was used for needs related to COVID-19
3.9 for the time period during which the money appropriated under this section was expended.

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