

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill requires the commissioner of health to provide grants to community health boards for initiatives to reduce the rate of smoking and tobacco use among youth. Section 1, subdivision 1 establishes a competitive grant program and section 1, subdivision 2 establishes a grant program that provides funding to all applicants submitting a proposal.

1 Tobacco use prevention grants for youth. Adds § 145A.135. Requires the commissioner of health to provide grants to community health boards for tobacco use prevention efforts targeted at youth.

Subd. 1. Competitive grants. (a) Requires the commissioner of health, in consultation with the commissioner of children, families, and learning, to award grants by December 1, 1999 to community health boards for tobacco use prevention grants targeted at youths up to age 18. Specifies the timetable for the grant process and requires the request for proposals to contain information on the evaluation process that will be used.

(b) Requires community health boards applying for grants to have developed, in collaboration with community action agencies, a four-year plan to reduce the rate of smoking and tobacco use among youth. Requires boards to implement the plan in collaboration with community action agencies and other entities conducting similar or related initiatives, in a manner that does not duplicate existing efforts. Allows community health boards agencies to jointly apply for grants.

(c) Requires the commissioner to award between two and four grants, targeted at different areas of the state. Requires at least one grant to target a youth population at high-risk of tobacco use.

(d) States that grants are for two years, and may be renewed for two additional years. Allows grant renewal only if the commissioner determines that the recipient has made adequate progress towards implementing its plan and achieving outcome measures.

Subd. 2. Grants to community health boards. (a) Requires the commissioner to award grants by December 15, 1999 to each community health board that submits a proposal to implement, in collaboration with a community action agency, tobacco use prevention initiatives targeted at youth up to age 18. Specifies a timeline for the grant process and requires grant funding to be divided equally among applicants.

(b) States that grants are for two years, and may be renewed for two additional years. Allows grant renewal only if the commissioner determines that the recipient has made adequate progress towards implementing its plan and achieving outcome measures.

Subd. 3. Prohibition on multiple awards. Prohibits a community health board that applies for grants under both subdivisions 1 and 2 from accepting more than one grant. If a board is awarded a grant under both subdivisions, requires one of the grant awards to be returned to the commissioner and redistributed.

Subd. 4. Evaluation. (a) Requires the commissioner, in collaboration with the commissioner of children, families, and learning, to evaluate the effectiveness of the grant initiatives. Requires grant recipients to cooperate with the commissioner in evaluation.

(b) Requires the commissioner, in collaboration with the commissioner of children, families, and learning, to develop criteria for evaluation, outcome measures, and an evaluation methodology, and provide this information to grant applicants. Requires evaluation results to be included in the preliminary and final reports.

Subd. 5. Reports. Requires the commissioner to present a preliminary report to the legislature by January 15, 2001, and a final report by January 15, 2003. Specifies contents of the reports.

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Appropriation. (a) Appropriates \$15 million from the general fund to the commissioner of health for the biennium ending June 30, 2001, to implement section 1.

(b) Of this appropriation, provides \$2 million each fiscal year for competitive grants provided under section 1, subdivision 1.

(c) Of this appropriation, provides \$4.6 million each fiscal year for grants provided under section 1, subdivision 2.

(d) Of this appropriation, provides \$750,000 each fiscal year to the commissioner for costs related to evaluation, and provides that this money is available until expended.

(e) Of this appropriation, provides \$150,000 each fiscal year to the commissioner for administrative costs, and allows carry-over to fiscal year 2001.