

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 331

DATE: February 6, 2001

Version: As Introduced

Authors: Abeler, Entenza, S. Johnson

Subject: Historic Preservation Grant Program

Analyst: Wendy Simons, 651-296-5052

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill creates a historic structure preservation grant program to be administered by the Minnesota Historical Society. The program would give grants of up to 20 percent of the total costs of rehabilitation on eligible projects certified by the state historic preservation office.

Section

1 Historic structure preservation grant program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines "certified historic structure," "eligible property," and "structure in a certified historic district" for the purposes of determining eligibility for the grant program in this section.

Subd. 2. Certification of eligibility. Requires an owner of an eligible property to apply to the state historic preservation office of the Minnesota historical society before beginning a historic rehabilitation project. The office must determine the amount of eligible rehabilitation costs and whether the project meets the rehabilitation standards of the U.S. Department of the Interior, and must issue a certificate of eligibility to the owner.

Subd. 3. Maximum grant allowed. Provides that 20 percent of the total rehabilitation costs of a project is the maximum allowable grant under the program. Eligible costs include, but are not limited to, rehabilitation expenses as defined by the Internal Revenue Service, provided that costs must exceed 20 percent of the adjusted basis in the property at the time the rehabilitation activity begins and the project meets Department of the Interior rehabilitation standards.

Subd. 4. Application; program administration. Requires the state historic preservation office to develop application procedures for the grant program. Allows grant funds to be awarded on an annual or biannual basis. Directs the office to reduce each grant proportionately if eligible applications exceed available funds. Allows the office to charge application fees for the program, not to exceed the costs of administering the program.

- 2 **Determination of economic impact.** Requires the Minnesota Historical Society to determine the economic impact of the program and report to the legislative committees on economic development on an annual basis.
- 3 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$10,000,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society for the historic structure preservation grant program.