

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes an emergency jobs program in the state.

Section

- 1 **Citation.** Names the initiative the Minnesota Emergency Employment Development (MEED) Act of 2009.
- 2 **Definitions.** Provides definitions of terms.
- 3 **Duties of commissioner.** Sets forth duties of the commissioner to include:
 - Reviewing emergency jobs development plans;
 - Coordinating with other state agencies;
 - Coordinating with the MFIP program;
 - Setting policy regarding disbursement of funds;
 - Performing general marketing and monitoring;
 - Applying for federal waivers;
 - Enforcement of the emergency jobs program;
 - Reporting to the legislature; and
 - Adoption of rules.
- 4 **Allocation of funds.** Provides that 90 percent of the funds must be allocated among eligible workforce services areas and sets out the criteria for allocation.
- 5 **Priorities.** Sets forth priorities for allocation among job applicants within workforce

service areas.

- 6 **Use of funds.** Provides for the use of funds to finance up to 26 weeks of wage contributions for eligible applicants.
- 7 **Powers and duties of employment administrators.** Authorizes employment administrators to develop an emergency employment plan, to publicize the program within the workforce service area, to enter into contracts with eligible employers, screen applicants, maintain lists of eligible job applicants, coordinate education and training programs and purchase supplies and materials.
- 8 **Eligible government and nonprofit agency employments.** Provides that a government or nonprofit agency is an eligible employer if they provide long term benefits or are needed by the community. Includes jobs in permanent public improvement projects, weatherization, reforestation, mineland reclamation, tree planting or trimming, soil conservation, natural resources development and community social services.
- 9 **Business employment.** Provides business eligibility and requires a written contract with an employment administrator and assurances that the business has a plan with description of the duties and compensation of each employee and that funds under this program will be used only for compensation and fringe benefits and other items comparable to those provided to other similar employees.

Businesses must retain employees for at least six months beyond the initial six month subsidized period and provides for a payback of funds if the employment relationship is terminated early.
- 10 **Minnesota Emergency Employment Development account.** Creates a special account in the state treasury.
- 11 **Displacement.** Prohibits displacement of existing workers for the purpose of hiring a subsidized worker.
- 12 **Termination notification.** Provides for cancellation of any unused funds to the general fund when the program terminates.
- 13 **Sunsets.** Sunsets the program after June 30, 2011.
- 14 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$120 million from the general fund each year for MEED.
- 15 **Effective dates.** Generally effective the day following final enactment.