HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Peterson, S.

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Analyst: Anita Neumann (651-296-5056)

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1 **Minnesota Opportunity Training Grants.** Directs the Office of Higher Education to develop and implement an opportunity training grant program to provide assistance to adult workers enrolling in and completing short-term education and training programs.

Eligible applicants are Minnesota residents who have graduated from high school or are 18 years or older and have been accepted into a training program.

Grants must be used for training over a maximum of two semesters or the equivalent, at a Minnesota State Colleges and Universities (MnSCU) system institution. Training must be for an occupation classified as having long-term demand-measured by average or above average growth rates and current demand indicators of at least four stars as designated by the state Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) Occupations in Demand analysis. Training must also be for an occupation in which the average wage is 175 percent of the federal poverty guideline for a family of three.

Grant awards are $2,000 for up to 2,000 eligible applicants for training and education in the top programs at a MnSCU institution that meet the wage, growth, and length of study criteria under the Occupations in Demand analysis. Grants may be awarded either to individuals or to participating training programs. Participating institutions must report outcomes to the state each year for three years. The program sunsets on June 30, 2013.

$4,000,000 is appropriated from the general fund in fiscal year 2013 for the training grants.