

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

- 1** **Distribution of funds.** Directs \$150,000 of available medical education funds to the Academic Health Center for a program to assist foreign trained health professionals to successfully compete for family medicine residency programs at the University of Minnesota. Only those foreign trained professionals who are legal residents and who commit to serving in underserved Minnesota communities in a health professional shortage area are eligible for assistance under this section.
- 2** **Foreign-trained health care professionals grant program.** Directs the commissioner of health to establish a grant program similar to a 2006 pilot program to encourage state licensure of foreign trained health professionals. The grants must cover the actual costs of taking a course to prepare for required licensing examinations and the fees for the exams. In granting awards, the commissioner must consider whether the recipient's training involves a high demand medical specialty; whether the recipient commits to practicing in a designated rural area or an underserved urban community; whether the recipient's language skills provide an opportunity for health care access for underserved persons; and any additional criteria of the commissioner.
- 3** **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$450,000 a year from the workforce development fund to the commissioner of health for the grant program created in section 2.