

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Requires workforce service areas outside of the metropolitan area to have a career counseling coordinator. Appropriates money for career counseling coordinators and youth programs.

Section

1 Rural career counseling coordinators. Requires most workforce service areas outside of the metro area to have a career counseling coordinator. Service areas serving a single city are exempt from the requirement. Career counseling coordinators must:

- understand the needs of businesses regarding workforce development resources, programs, and services;
- connect job seekers, educators, employers, and other stakeholders and partners;
- assess and compile information about workforce development programs and services offered in the service area, at elementary and secondary schools, at adult basic education programs, and at higher education institutions;
- make recommendations to the commissioner of DEED on ways to improve coordination, programs, and services;
- share best practices and collaborate with other coordinators at the local and state level; and
- promote workforce development programs and resources in the workforce service area.

Section

The workforce council of each workforce service area must report annually to the commissioner of DEED on activities of the career counseling coordinators and other workforce service area-specific information and outcomes. Requires the commissioner of DEED to consolidate the reports for submission to the legislature.

2 Rural career counseling coordinators; appropriation. Appropriates \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund for up to nine rural career counseling coordinators.

3 Minnesota youth program; appropriation. Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the general fund each year beginning in fiscal year 2016, and \$3,500,000 from the workforce development fund each year beginning in fiscal year 2016 for the Minnesota youth program.

Of these amounts, \$6,000,000 each year from the general fund and \$2,000,000 each year from the workforce development fund is for distribution to certain workforce service areas located outside the metro area for employment and career counseling to youth, including career counseling in kindergarten through grade 12 schools. Allows these funds to be used to serve all youth up to age 24. Currently, under the Minnesota youth program, use of funds is limited to economically disadvantaged at-risk youth and applies only to ages 14 to 21.

Funds may also be used to expand the career and higher education advising pilot program enacted by the legislature in 2013.