

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

1 Upper St. Anthony Lock closure grants. Provides a \$40 million onetime appropriation in fiscal year 2016 to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the St. Paul Port Authority to make grants to provide economic assistance to businesses that are adversely affected by the closure of the St. Anthony Falls Lock. The appropriation will be available until June 30, 2035.

The port authority will administer the grants and may not disburse funds until a written agreement has been entered into between the port authority and the grantee. Grants are limited to \$20 million per business.

Businesses eligible for a grant must:

- be located upriver of the Upper St. Anthony Falls lock;
- operate a commercial navigation facility as of the effective date of the law; and
- as of the effective date of the law, be actively engaged in the use of commercial vessels on the commercially navigable waters of the Mississippi to move commodities and materials.

Grant funds may be used for:

- relocation costs including the cost of acquiring or leasing property or capital equipment;
- demolition, dismantling, or transportation costs;

Section

- materials and supplies, capital equipment, and privately owned infrastructure supporting the construction, improvement, or expansion of a facility to be used by a grantee;
- development or operation of alternative methods of transporting commodities or materials;
- mitigation of increased operating costs; and
- other costs, including but not limited to shipping and handling costs associated with the development and operation of alternative methods of transporting commodities or materials.

An unspecified amount may be used by DEED and the port authority for administrative costs.