

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Alternative Teacher Preparation Grants

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### Overview

This bill establishes a competitive grant to support alternative teacher preparation programs, to be administered by the commissioner of higher education.

\$1 million in FY 2016 and \$1 million in FY 2017 are appropriated to the commissioner of higher education for the purpose of making grants.

### Section

**1** **Alternative Teacher Preparation Grant Program.** Establishes a grant program, to be administered by the Office of Higher Education, for funding alternative teacher preparation programs based on certain criteria provided in the bill.

**Subdivision 1** defines certain terms used in the bill. The definition of “alternative teacher preparation program” requires that, to be eligible for a grant a program must be approved by the Board of Teaching as provided in current law for these programs. This subdivision also defines the term “diversity” and “highly selective.”

**Subdivision 2** establishes the competitive grant program and sets eligibility parameters. The criteria for allocating grants must be established by the commissioner of higher education, and include requirements that a program: (1) have a “highly selective” process for choosing participants; (2) have a history of selecting participants that increase diversity in the teaching workforce; and (3) have an established record of improving student achievement, based on peer-reviewed local or national research on the program model.

## **Section**

**Subdivision 3** details the purposes for which the grant may be used, including expenses related to recruitment, selection, and training of teachers; professional development of teachers; providing administrative-types of support; and leveraging nonstate money to further accomplish these permissible uses.

**Subdivision 4** permits the commissioner of higher education to request a report from grant recipients to share compliance with the criteria specified in the bill.

- 2      Appropriation.** Appropriates \$1 million in FY 2016 and \$1 million in FY 2017 for the purposes of providing alternative teacher preparation grants.