

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2798
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 18, 2016

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Subject: Dual Training Competency Grants

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Section

1 Dual training competency grants.

Subd. 1. Program created. Specifies that an individual must, no later than the date that training commences, be an employee of the employer that is seeking a training grant.

Subd. 2. Eligible grantees. Strikes a requirement that employees who previously received a grant under the program are not eligible to receive another grant. Adds language that an employee must receive an industry-recognized degree, certificate, or credential upon successful completion of the training.

Subd. 3. Training institution or program. Specifies that an employer must have an agreement with a training institution prior to being awarded a grant. Current law requires an agreement with a training institution prior to applying for a grant. Also specifies that the Office of Higher Education (OHE) and Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) must work together to maintain an inventory of degree, certificate, and credential programs that provide training meeting competency standards. The inventory must be posted on each agency's Web site and include contact information for each program.

Subd. 4. Application. Adds to the information that a grant application must contain to include the number of projected employee trainees who graduated from high school or passed the GED test in the current and immediately preceding year and

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specifies that the costs of training includes tuition, fees, and required books and materials.

Subd. 5. Grant criteria. Provides that the commissioner must award grants to employers solely for training employees that graduated from high school or passed the GED in the current or immediately preceding year. However, if there are not sufficient eligible applications that meet that criteria, the commissioner may award grants to applicants that are training employees not meeting the high school and GED completion timeframe.

Directs the commissioner to make approximately equal grant amounts between the metro and nonmetro area; and directs the commissioner, when awarding grants, to consider the on-the-job training an employee receives.

Subd. 7. Payment of grant. Modifies the payment language to direct the commissioner to pay the grant to the employer after the employer presents evidence the employer has paid the training institution or program. The commissioner may pay the institution or program directly if the employer demonstrates the inability to pay for the training in advance. Under current law, the commissioner pays the grant to the training institution or program after receiving notice that the employer has paid the required match.

Subd. 8. Grant amounts. Limits the grant to \$6,000 per year for a maximum of four years per employee and requires an employee attending an eligible institution to apply for Pell and state grants.

2 **Duties; goal.** Strikes reference to “current” employees.