

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes a pilot project in fiscal year 2017 to help struggling readers in grades 3 to 5 by providing a \$100,000 grant to a nonprofit organization that uses a research-based intervention software program of singing to improve students' reading. Requires the nonprofit to evaluate students' reading gains and report to the legislature.

Section

1 Pilot project to help struggling students read at grade level. (a) Establishes a pilot project in fiscal year 2017 to help struggling students in grades 3 to 5 read at grade level. Directs the education commissioner to award a grant to a nonprofit organization to provide three Minnesota public schools with: a software program that uses singing to improve students' reading ability; on-site professional development and instructional monitoring; pre- and post-program assessments; and other project management services. Requires participating schools to identify staff to work with students in the program.

(b) Directs the commissioner, in consultation with the nonprofit grant recipient, to select an urban, suburban, and greater Minnesota school district to participate based on: the number of low-income students in grades 3 to 5 whose reading proficiency is below grade level; the interest of the school staff in the pilot project; and the availability of a computer lab.

(c) Directs with the nonprofit grant recipient to submit a commissioner-reviewed report to the legislature by February 1, 2017, on students' reading gains.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2016.

Section

2 **Pilot project appropriation.** Appropriates \$105,000 in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the education commissioner for a grant to a nonprofit organization to provide a research-based intervention software program that uses singing to improve students' reading ability. Makes \$5,000 of the appropriation available to the commissioner for administrative costs.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2016.