

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 278

DATE: February 23, 2015

Version: The delete all amendment (H0278DE1)

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Subject: Alzheimer's Disease

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Overview

This bill creates an Alzheimer's research grant program, statewide dementia grants, regional and local dementia grants, an Alzheimer's Research Advisory Council, and an Alzheimer's public information program.

Section

1 Alzheimer's research grant program. Creates § 136A.89.

Subd. 1. Competitive grant program. Requires the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education to establish a competitive grant program to award grants to conduct research into Alzheimer's disease and other dementias. Requires the commissioner to award the grants to conduct research into the prevention, treatment, causes, and cures of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias by June 1, 2016, and by each June 1 thereafter. Specifies eligible applicants for the grants and the timeline for submitting grant proposals.

Subd. 2. Report. By January 1, 2017, and each January 1 thereafter, requires any institutions receiving Alzheimer's research grants to submit a progress report on the use of the funds to the commissioner. Lists the information that must be included in the report. Requires the commissioner to submit a report on the use of the funds to the legislature by January 15, 2017, and each January 15 thereafter. Lists the information that must be included in the report.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

Section

2 Alzheimer's Research Advisory Council. Creates § 136A.891.

Subd. 1. Membership. Requires the commissioner to appoint an 11-member advisory council. Requires each member of the council to have professional experience in Alzheimer's disease or related biomedical research.

Subd. 2. Organization. Requires the advisory council to be organized and administered according to the statute governing advisory councils and committees, except the provision related to membership terms does not apply. Requires the commissioner to appoint council members to four-year terms, except for some of the initial appointment terms. Prohibits appointed members from serving more than two consecutive terms. Requires the chair of the council to be elected from the membership of the council and to serve as chair for two years. Requires the council to adopt internal organizational procedures as necessary for its efficient organization.

Subd. 3. Conflict of interest. Requires council members to disclose in writing any financial interest in any organization that the council recommends to receive a grant. Requires the written statement to accompany the grant recommendation and to explain the nature of the conflict. States the council is not subject to policies developed by the commissioner of administration under the grants management process.

Subd. 4. Duties. Lists the duties of the council. Requires the council to give priority to those proposals that have the greatest scientific merit and are most likely to be effective. Specifies the timeline for the council to make its criteria for evaluating and awarding research grants available to potential applicants.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

3 Duties. Amends § 256.975, subd. 2. Adds duties to the Minnesota Board on Aging related to (1) administering the statewide dementia grants and regional and local dementia grants, and (2) providing progress reports to the legislature related to the grants.

4 Statewide dementia grants. Amends § 256.975, by adding subd. 11. Paragraph (a) requires the Minnesota Board on Aging to award competitive grants to eligible applicants for statewide projects and initiatives to promote awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, increase the rate of cognitive testing in the population at risk for dementias, promote the benefits of early diagnosis of dementias, or connect caregivers of persons with dementia to education and resources.

Paragraph (b) lists the project areas for statewide grants.

Paragraph (c) lists the eligible applicants for the statewide dementia grants.

Paragraph (d) lists the information that must be included in grant applications and establishes the timeline for submitting proposals.

Paragraph (e) lists the priorities the board must consider when awarding grants.

Paragraph (f) requires the board to award any available grants by October 1, 2015, and each October 1 thereafter.

Section

Paragraph (g) specifies reporting requirements grant recipients must meet.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

- 5** **Regional and local dementia grants.** Amends § 256.975, by adding subd. 12. Paragraph (a) requires the Minnesota Board on Aging to award competitive grants to eligible applicants for regional and local projects and initiatives targeted to a designated community, which may consist of a specific geographic area or population, to increase awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, increase the rate of cognitive testing in the population at risk for dementias, promote the benefits of early diagnosis of dementias, or connect caregivers of persons with dementia to education and resources.

Paragraph (b) lists the project areas for the regional and local grants.

Paragraph (c) lists the eligible applicants for the regional and local dementia grants.

Paragraph (d) lists the information that must be included in grant applications and establishes the timeline for submitting proposals.

Paragraph (e) lists the priorities the board must consider when awarding grants.

Paragraph (f) requires the board to divide the state into specific geographic regions and allocate a percentage of the money available for the regional and local dementia grants to projects or initiatives aimed at each geographic region.

Paragraph (g) requires the board to award any available grants by October 1, 2015, and each October 1 thereafter.

Paragraph (h) specifies reporting requirements grant recipients must meet.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

- 6** **Alzheimer’s public information program.** Amends § 256.975, by adding subd. 13. Requires the Minnesota Board on Aging to design and implement an ongoing statewide public information program promoting the benefits of cognitive testing, awareness of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias, and awareness of the needs of caregivers. Requires the program to include a toll-free resources and referral telephone line and Web site designed to meet the needs of caregivers and persons with dementia. Allows the board to contract with one or more third parties to carry out some or all of the program. Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

- 7** **Alzheimer’s Research Advisory Council; initial terms and appointments.** Specifies the initial terms and appointments of the Alzheimer’s Research Advisory Council.

- 8** **Appropriations.** Appropriates money for the Alzheimer’s research grants, statewide dementia grants, regional and local dementia grants, and Alzheimer’s public information program.