

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Establishes a service-learning specialist at the education department, allows the Board of Teaching to develop recommendations on teacher preparation and licensure requirements for service-learning, and provides for service-learning grants.

Section

1 Service-learning specialist; service-learning work. Directs the education commissioner to create a service-learning specialist position in the department to advance service learning. Allows the commissioner to provide or contract for expertise in best practices, professional development, research or evaluation, or learning communities or user group support.

Makes this section effective July 1, 2015.

2 Innovative incubator service-learning grants.

Subd. 1. Establishment; eligibility criteria; application requirements. (a) Establishes a five-year preK-12 grant program to provide students with service-learning and to help close achievement and opportunity gaps.

(b) Establishes eligibility criteria. Requires at least one public school educator and one public school employee with service-learning expertise to form a student-adult partnership with at least one community-based organization or unit of government. Allows the partnership to invite other individuals or entities to participate. As a precondition to applying to the education department for a grant, requires participating students to work with adults in the partnership to identify an issue, need, or opportunity to pursue with the partnership and to identify partnership members to collaborate in applying for the grant. Designates the affected or participating school

Section

district as the fiscal agent for the grant. Requires a partnership receiving a grant to: include enrolled students, school district employees, and a community-based organization or a unit of government; and help students participate in service-learning experiences, operate collaboratively, align service-learning experiences with students' individualized education plan or program, apply students' knowledge and skills to solve community problems, foster students' civic engagement, and explore and pursue career pathways and achieve college readiness.

Directs an interested partnership to apply to the education commissioner in the form and manner determined by the commissioner. Lists the required contents of the application. Requires a partnership to work with a public school employee with service-learning expertise to design the application and implement the grant.

Subd. 2. Innovation grants. Directs the commissioner to award up to 32 grants of up to \$50,000 each to eligible partnerships throughout the state. Allows the commissioner to designate grant categories with different grant amounts and to impose additional requirements based on the grant category and amount. Allows the commissioner to annually renew grants subject to available appropriations and eligibility criteria. Requires eligible partnerships to provide matching funds or in-kind contributions unless the commissioner waives the requirement for a partnership serving a high number of students living in poverty. Requires a grantee to convey 50 percent of the grant to its partner that is the community-based organization or unit of government.

Subd. 3. Evaluation. Directs the commissioner to evaluate grantees' efficacy based on the educational and developmental outcomes of students participating in the service learning and community outcomes. Directs the commissioner to transmit a preliminary report to the legislature by February 15, 2019, and a final report to the legislature by February 15, 2021.

Makes this section effective for the 2015-2016 through 2019-2020 school years.

- 3 Task force recommendations on service-learning.** Allows the Board of Teaching to create a task force to make recommendations by February 15, 2016, to the legislature on teacher preparation and licensure requirements for service-learning.

Makes this section effective immediately.

- 4 Appropriation.**

Subd. 1. Department of Education. Appropriates general fund sums to the Department of Education in the fiscal years indicated for service-learning purposes.

Subd. 2. Service-learning specialist; service-learning work. Appropriates \$300,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2017 for the service-learning specialist at the education department and for related service-learning work.

Subd. 3. Innovative service learning grants. Appropriates \$800,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$800,000 in fiscal year 2017 for service-learning program grants. Allows the fiscal year 2016 appropriation to carry forward into the next fiscal year.