

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Requires workforce centers outside of the metropolitan area to have a workforce system coordinator. Appropriates money for workforce coordinators and youth programs.

Section

- 1** **Rural workforce system coordinators.** Requires most workforce centers outside of the metro area to have a workforce system coordinator. Centers serving a single city are exempt from the requirement. Workforce coordinators must:
- assist businesses to determine applicable workforce development resources, programs and services;
 - connect job seekers, educators, employers, and other stakeholders and partners;
 - assess and compile information about workforce development programs and services offered at the center, at elementary and secondary schools, and at higher education institutions;
 - make recommendations to the commissioner of DEED on ways to improve coordination, programs, and services;
 - share best practices and collaborate with other coordinators at the local and state level; and
 - promote workforce development programs and resources in the workforce service area.

Section

The workforce council of each workforce service center must report annually to the commissioner of DEED on activities of the workforce system coordinators and other workforce center-specific information and outcomes. Requires the commissioner of DEED to consolidate the reports for submission to the legislature.

2 Rural workforce system coordinators; appropriation. Appropriates \$2,250,000 in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund for up to nine rural workforce system coordinators.

3 Minnesota youth program; appropriation. Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the general fund each year beginning in fiscal year 2016, and \$3,500,000 from the workforce development fund each year beginning in fiscal year 2016 for the Minnesota youth program.

Of these amounts, \$6,000,000 each year from the general fund and \$2,000,000 each year from the workforce development fund is for distribution to certain workforce centers located outside the metro area for employment and career counseling to youth, including career counseling in kindergarten through grade 12 schools. Allows these funds to be used to serve all youth up to age 24. Currently, under the Minnesota youth program, use of funds is limited to economically disadvantaged at-risk youth and applies only to ages 14 to 21.

Funds may also be used to expand the career and higher education advising pilot program enacted by the legislature in 2013.