

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3324
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 28, 2016

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Subject: Urban agriculture

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Overview

This bill creates a new Urban Agriculture Development Pilot Program administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA). MDA would award competitive grants to eligible cities, Native American tribal communities, individuals, and nonprofit organizations. The pilot program would expire on June 30, 2018. The bill appropriates \$20,000,000 of base funding for the program.

Section

1 Urban agriculture development pilot program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes the new program. Defines the terms “urban agriculture” and “eligible cities.”

Subd. 2. Competitive grants. Requires MDA to issue competitive grants based on applicants’ commitment to increase urban agriculture capacity, create living-wage jobs, increase fresh food access, reduce or eliminate health disparities related to food access, etc.

Subd. 3. Repayment required. Requires grant recipients to pay a penalty equal to three times the amount of each grant received if the recipient takes certain actions.

Subd. 4. Expiration. Sunsets the pilot program on June 30, 2018.

2 Appropriation. Appropriates \$20,000,000 from the general fund for the program. Between July 1, 2016, and January 1, 2017, one-half of the appropriation would be reserved for grants that serve, engage, and benefit communities of color and Native American tribal communities.