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In 2015, the legislature enacted a pilot program to provide scholarships for enrollment in eligible technical education programs that lead to employment in high demand occupational fields. In general, the scholarships are available to Minnesota students who completed an AmeriCorps program immediately after graduating high school, earning a GED, or completing an adult basic education program.

As part of this pilot program, the legislature appropriated \$225,000 to MnSCU for information technology and administrative costs associated with implementing the program. This appropriation was made available for fiscal year 2017. Fiscal year 2017 begins July 1, 2016.

This bill would allow MnSCU to access the IT and administrative cost appropriation sooner—rather than waiting until the new fiscal year begins in July, the funds would be available upon enactment of the bill.