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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, 2019. The bill appropriates \$10,000,000 of base funding per fiscal year 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 if the recipient takes certain actions.

Subd. 4. Annual report required. Requires MDA to report to the legislature annually.

Subd. 5. Expiration. Sunsets the pilot program on June 30, 2019.

Section

2 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the general fund in each of fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for the program.