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Overview

Creates and funds a grant program to assist businesses adversely affected by a decline in walleye fishing on Lake Mille Lacs.

Section

1 Lake Mille Lacs area economic restoration program.

Subd. 1. Restoration program established. Directs Mille Lacs County to develop and implement a program to assist businesses adversely affected by a decline in walleye fishing on Lake Mille Lacs.

Subd. 2. Available assistance. (a) Requires Mille Lacs county to develop procedures for the program, procedures which must be approved by the commissioner of employment and economic development.

(b) Allows the program to give grants of \$100,000 or less under criteria that: (1) give preference to businesses whose documented losses are largest relative to the size of the business; (2) oblige the recipients to remain in business in the local community for a minimum of ten years; and (3) require that applicants submit a business plan for remaining in business in the community for the following ten years.

Subd. 3. Qualification requirements. Sets requirements for businesses to qualify for assistance: (1) being located in a defined geographic area surrounding Lake Mille Lacs; (2) ability to document a reduction of at least ten percent in gross receipts in any two-year period since 2010; and (3) doing business in one of several types of industries, generally those catering to the fishing tourism trade.

Section

Subd. 4. Monitoring. Specifies that the performance measures that Mille Lacs County must establish for the program must include at least: (1) information on the number of grants, amounts of awards, and reasons for awards; (2) the number of jobs created or retained as a result of the grants, along with details on the status and compensation of those jobs; (3) changes in gross revenues of recipients as a result of the grants; and (4) new tax revenue generated as a result of the grants. Directs the commissioner of employment and economic development to monitor Mille Lacs County's compliance with the monitoring requirements and the performance of the program according to these required metrics. States that Mille Lacs County must cooperate with all requests from the commissioner under this section.

Subd. 5. Business subsidy requirements. Exempts this grant program from the business subsidy rules which normally apply under Minnesota Statutes, sections 116J.993 to 116J.995.

Subd. 6. Administrative costs. Allows the commissioner of employment and economic development to use up to one percent of the appropriation for this program on administrative expenses.

Effective date. Sets the grant program to go into effect on July 1, 2018; everything but the monitoring of awards expires after two years. Continues program monitoring until June 30, 2030, since businesses are required to continue in business in the community for ten years.

2 Lake Mille Lacs area economic restoration program; appropriation. Makes a onetime appropriation in fiscal year 2019 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development to fund this grant program.