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Overview

This bill creates a new capital grant program to improve, expand, or build new child care facilities in greater Minnesota in order to support economic development by supporting workers and families needing access to child care.

Section

1 Greater Minnesota Child Care Facility Capital Grant Program.

Subd. 1. Creation of accounts. Establishes an account in the general fund and an account in the bond proceeds fund for the grant program and appropriates money in the accounts to the commissioner of human services to make the grants.

Subd. 2. Purpose; authority. States the purpose of the grant program and provides that a local government may own and operate a child care facility to help accomplish the purpose.

Subd. 3. Definitions. Defines “eligible applicant” as a local government if the grant is from the bond proceeds fund, and a local government or nonprofit organization if the grant is from the general fund.

Defines “local government” as a county or home rule charter or statutory city outside the seven-county metropolitan area.

Subd. 4. Grants. Provides for grants of up to 50 percent of the capital costs of projects. Requires the commissioner to explain to the legislature if a grant is for less than 50 percent.

Section

Subd. 5. Eligible projects. Describes projects that are eligible if the grant is from bond proceeds and if from the general fund.

Subd. 6. Ineligible projects. Provides that a project is not eligible if it does not serve more children, does not meet state requirements for child care facilities or programs, or, if funded with bond proceeds, will be transferred to a private party contrary to laws governing state bond-financed property.

Subd. 7. Application, criteria. Directs the commissioner to develop forms and procedures to solicit and review applications, and lists the minimum information an applicant must provide.

Subd. 8. Maximum grant amount. Limits a grant to \$500,000 per project or \$2,000,000 in two years to an applicant for one or more projects in the same city or county.

Subd. 9. Cancellation of grant; return of money. Provides for cancellation of grant if the project is not proceeding and the grant money returned is available for making other grants.

- 2 Greater Minnesota Child Care Facility Grants.** Appropriates \$5 million from bond proceeds and \$5 million from the general fund for the grant program. Authorizes the sale of state general obligation bonds.