

File Number: H.F. 631 **Date:** March 1, 2017
Version: The delete everything amendment (H0631DE4)

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Subject: Youth Skills Training Program

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Overview

This bill creates a youth skills training program and provides grant funding from the workforce development fund for certain program activities.

Section

1 Youth skills training program.

Subd. 1. Program established and grants authorized. Establishes the youth skills training program. Requires the programs to provide work-based skills training opportunities for students who are at least 16 years of age. Authorizes the commissioner of labor and industry to award grants to local programs.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Defines “school district” to include school districts and charter schools. Defines “local partnership” to mean any combination of school districts, nonpublic schools, postsecondary institutions, workforce development authorities, economic development authorities, and nonprofit organizations who enter into an agreement with one or more local employers for a local youth skills training program.

Subd. 3. Duties. Authorizes the commissioner to approve local partnership programs. Requires the local partnership plan to address hours of participation, wage rates, student workplace, and safety concerns. Requires the local partnership plan to address what type of high school and college credits that a participating student will receive.

Requires the commissioner to issue requests for grants, develop model program guides and provide other support for the local partnerships. Requires the commissioner to collaborate with other stakeholders.

Section

Subd. 4. Training agreement. Requires the participating student (or student's parent) to sign a written training agreement.

Subd. 5. Program approval. Requires the commissioner to approve and review youth skills training programs.

Subd. 6. Interactions with education finance. Makes clear that hours enrolled in an approved youth skills training program continue to count as hours of instruction under Minnesota's school finance formulas.

Subd. 7. Academic credit. Authorizes a school district to grant academic credit for students participating in youth skills programs under this section.

Subd. 8. Postsecondary credit. Authorizes a postsecondary institution to grant postsecondary credit for a student's participation in a youth skills program.

Subd. 9. Work based learning program. Qualifies the youth skills program as a work based learning program if the youth skills program meets the requirements for a career and technical program and is supervised by a qualified teacher.

Subd. 10. School coordinator. Authorizes a school administrator or a qualified teacher to oversee a youth skills training program.

Subd. 11. Other apprenticeship program. Clarifies that this program doesn't interfere with the comprehensive youth apprenticeship program under Minnesota Statutes, section 124D.47

Subd. 12. Grant applications. Allows the commissioner to determine the form and manner of the grant application. Sets the criteria that must be included in the grant.

Subd. 13. Grant awards. Lists the possible uses of a grant received under this section, including coordinating activities, recruiting students, and coordinating transportation. Prohibits using any portion of the grants to pay wages to the participating students.

Subd. 14. Outcomes. Lists the expected program outcomes including that at least 80 percent of program participants receive a high school diploma, and that at least 60 percent of participating students receive a recognized credential upon completion of the program.

Subd. 15. Reporting. Requires the commissioner of labor and industry to report to the legislature on program activities and outcomes.

2 Appropriations; youth skills training program. Appropriates \$100,000 in fiscal year 2018 from the workforce development fund to the commissioner of labor and industry to administer the youth skills training program. Appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2019 from the workforce development fund to the commissioner for grants to local partnerships created under section 1. Requires the grants to be made to local partnerships throughout the state.