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### Overview

The Minnesota Reading Corps is the largest of the programs run by ServeMinnesota, which is the name of a state grant program designed to work in concert with federal youth service programs. ServeMinnesota is the statutorily designated recipient of federal Americorps funds. The reading corps trains and places tutors at sites to provide early intervention reading services to children ages through third grade reaching around 30,000 students each year.

The ServeMinnesota program combines the state grant money with federal money and provides the participants (tutors) with living expenses or a stipend, health insurance, child care if needed, and a postservice educational award of up to \$5,775 for the 2016-17 school year, which may be used for higher education costs or to repay student loans.

The Minnesota Reading Corps has operated since 2003. \$6.125 million in fiscal year 2016 and \$7.125 million in fiscal year 2017 were appropriated from the general fund to the Minnesota Reading Corps. The base budget for this program is \$5.625 million per year. This bill proposes to raise the level of state funding for the Minnesota Reading Corps to \$11.925 million per year.

### Section

- 1 Minnesota Reading Corps appropriations.** Appropriates \$11.925 million per year from the general fund to the commissioner of education for support of the early childhood literacy efforts of the Minnesota Reading Corps program operated by ServeMinnesota.