

**File Number:** H.F. 2676  
**Version:** As introduced

**Date:** May 17, 2017

**Authors:** Dean

**Subject:** Public health response contingency account

**Analyst:** Elisabeth Klarqvist

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: [www.house.mn/hrd/](http://www.house.mn/hrd/).

### Overview

This bill creates a public health response contingency account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury, and transfers \$5,000,000 from the general fund to that account. The commissioner of health is authorized to use money in the account for the listed purposes, when needed to fund public health response activities due to pandemic influenza or an outbreak of a communicable or infectious disease.

#### Section

**1 Public health response contingency account.** Adds § 144.4199. Establishes a public health response contingency account for use by the commissioner of health to fund public health response activities required to address pandemic influenza or an outbreak of a communicable or infectious disease.

**Subd. 1. Public health response contingency account.** Establishes the public health response contingency account in the special revenue fund and appropriates money in the account to the commissioner of health for the purposes listed in subdivision 4.

**Subd. 2. Definition.** Defines “public health response” as immediate public health activities needed to protect public health and safety due to pandemic influenza or an outbreak of a communicable or infectious disease.

**Subd. 3. Determination criteria.** Allows the commissioner to use money in the account only if the commissioner:

## Section

- determines the pandemic influenza or disease outbreak requires a public health response;
- determines the public health response is reasonably expected to require more supplies, equipment, personnel, and other resources than otherwise available; and
- has notified the appropriate federal agency that the influenza or disease (i) may require evacuations, relocations of ill or injured people, or the provision of replacement essential community services; (ii) may result in a large number of deaths, serious injuries, or long-term disabilities; (iii) involves exposure to an infectious agent that poses a risk of substantial future harm to a large number of people; or (iv) poses a significant risk of a high rate of morbidity or mortality.

**Subd. 4. Uses of funds.** Lists allowable uses for money in the public health response contingency account: staffing; information technology; supplies, equipment, and services to protect people in the affected area or population, health care providers, and public safety workers; training and coordination; communication and outreach; to provide a state match for federal assistance; laboratory testing; the purchase of vaccines, antibiotics, antivirals, and other medicines; and reimbursement to community health boards, local units of government, health care organizations, health care providers, and other state agencies for incurred costs.

**Subd. 5. Assistance from other sources.** As a condition of using money in the account, requires the commissioner to seek appropriate assistance from other available sources, including the federal government. If the commissioner recovers funds from a nonstate source after using money from the public health response contingency account, requires the commissioner to reimburse the account for expenditures made from the account.

**Subd. 6. Emergency management authority.** States that this section does not limit the emergency management authority of the governor, local organizations for emergency management, or county organizations for emergency management.

**Subd. 7. Expenditure review.** Before using money from the public health response contingency account, requires the commissioner to seek review and recommendation from the Legislative Advisory Commission.

**Subd. 8. Report.** Requires the commissioner of health, by January 15 of each year, to submit a report to the listed legislative committees detailing expenditures made from the public health response contingency account in the previous calendar year.

- 2 **Transfer; public health response contingency account.** Transfers \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2018 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for deposit in the public health response contingency account.