

Subject Canadian border counties economic relief program

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Overview

Creates a business relief program to assist businesses adversely affected by the 2021 closure of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness or the closures of the Canadian border since 2020.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Canadian border counties economic relief program.
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Creates a relief program for businesses in counties that share a border with Canada.

Subd. 1. Relief program established. Directs an unnamed entity to create a relief program to assist businesses harmed by closures affecting Northern Minnesota in the last two years.

Subd. 2. Available relief. Sets requirements for making grants under the program and requires approval from the commissioner of employment and economic development for those plans. Limits grants to \$50,000 per business.

Subd. 3. Qualification requirements. Establishes eligibility criteria for grants. Requires that businesses:

- 1) be located in a county along the Canadian border;
- 2) be able to document a reduction in gross receipts of at least ten percent in 2021 compared to 2020; and
- 3) provide a written explanation for how the recent closures resulted in that loss in revenue.

Subd. 4. Monitoring. Stipulates that the grant-making entity must establish performance measures for the grants, including information about awards and the jobs, revenue, and taxes those awards result in. Requires cooperation with

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the commissioner of employment and economic development who will monitor these performance measures.

Subd. 5. Business subsidy requirements. Exempts the program from most state statutes that normally apply when state funds are given to private businesses.

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

Effective date: This section is effective July 1, 2022, and expires June 30, 2023.

2 **Appropriation; Canadian border counties economic relief program.**

Appropriates \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 for the Canadian border counties economic relief program as a onetime appropriation.



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