

Subject Canadian border counties economic relief program

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Summary

Creates the Canadian border counties economic 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. Directs the Northland Foundation to design the grant making process for approval by the commissioner of employment and economic development and to establish performance measures for the grants. Allows for a maximum grant of \$50,000 per business and exempts the program from all normal business subsidy requirements, though businesses must still provide for job creation and retention goals and wage and benefit goals. Makes the program effective July 1, 2023, and causes it to expire on June 30, 2024.

Limits eligibility for grants to businesses:

- 1) Located within a county that shares a border with Canada;
- 2) Able to document a reduction of at least ten percent in gross receipts in 2021 compared to 2019; and
- 3) Able to explain in writing how the closures in 2020 and 2021 resulted in that reduction in receipts.

Makes a onetime appropriation of an unspecified amount in fiscal year 2024 from the general fund for the Canadian border counties economic relief program and allows one percent to be used by the commissioner of employment and economic development for administration. Sets aside an unspecified amount for Tribal economic development.