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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 417

01/23/2017 Authored by Schomacker, Swedzinski and Miller
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Innovation Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing the Rural Career and Technical Education
1.3 Consortium; appropriating money; requiring a report.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. RURAL CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION CONSORTIUM.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definition. "Rural Career and Technical Education (CTE) Consortium"
1.7 means a voluntary collaboration of the Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative
1.8 (SWWC), Southwest Minnesota State University, Minnesota West Community and Technical
1.9 College, Ridgewater College, and other regional public and private partners that work
1.10 together to provide career and technical education opportunities.

1.11 Subd. 2. Establishment. (a) The SWWC shall develop a Rural CTE Consortium to
1.12 provide greater access to career and technical education courses for the schools in the SWWC
1.13 Service Cooperative 18-county service area. The Rural CTE Consortium shall:

1.14 (1) focus on the development of courses and programs that encourage collaboration
1.15 between two or more school districts;

1.16 (2) develop new career and technical programs that focus on the industry sectors that
1.17 fuel the rural regional economy;

1.18 (3) facilitate the development of highly trained and knowledgeable students who are
1.19 equipped with technical and workplace skills needed by regional employers;

1.20 (4) improve access to career and technical education programs for students who attend
1.21 sparsely populated rural school districts by developing public and private partnerships with

2.1 business and industry leaders and by increasing coordination of high school and
2.2 postsecondary program options;

2.3 (5) increase family and student awareness of the availability and benefit of career and
2.4 technical education courses and training opportunities; and

2.5 (6) provide capital start-up costs for items including, but not limited to, a mobile welding
2.6 lab, medical equipment and lab, and industrial kitchen equipment.

2.7 (b) In addition to the requirements in paragraph (a), the Rural CTE Consortium may:

2.8 (1) address the teacher shortage crisis in career and technical education through incentive
2.9 funding and training programs; and

2.10 (2) provide transportation reimbursement grants to provide equitable opportunities
2.11 throughout the region for students to participate in career and technical education.

2.12 Subd. 3. **Rural Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee.** The SWWC
2.13 shall establish a Rural Career and Technical Education Advisory Committee to advise the
2.14 SWWC on the administration of the Rural CTE Consortium.

2.15 Subd. 4. **Private funding.** The Rural CTE Consortium may receive other sources of
2.16 funds to supplement state funding. All funds received shall be administered by the SWWC.

2.17 Subd. 5. **Reporting requirements.** The Rural CTE Consortium must submit to the
2.18 legislature and commissioner of education an annual report by January 15 on the progress
2.19 of its activities. The annual report must contain a financial report for the preceding fiscal
2.20 year. The first report is due no later than January 15, 2019.

2.21 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.22 Subdivision 1. **Department of Education.** The sums indicated in this section are
2.23 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education for the fiscal year
2.24 designated.

2.25 Subd. 2. **Rural Career and Technical Education Consortium.** For a grant to the
2.26 Southwest/West Central Service Cooperative (SWWC) to administer a Rural CTE
2.27 Consortium:

2.28 \$ 5,000,000 2018

2.29 This is a onetime appropriation. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2022. The
2.30 base for fiscal year 2023 and later is \$0.