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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEVENTH SPECIAL SESSION

H. F. No. 8

12/14/2020 Authored by Howard
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; appropriating money for emergency services, isolation
1.3 spaces, and housing support.

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

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; EMERGENCY SERVICES.

1.6 (a) \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the
1.7 commissioner of human services for emergency services grants under Minnesota Statutes,
1.8 section 256E.36. Grant money may be used as follows:

1.9 (1) to provide additional shelter space; to purchase vouchers for the cost of a motel or
1.10 hotel room; or to fund other housing options, in order to provide housing that promotes
1.11 health and safety, or to isolate homeless individuals exposed to COVID-19 or who are
1.12 experiencing respiratory illness. Vouchers for the cost of a motel or hotel room may not be
1.13 issued to motels or hotels that receive funding from another source for the cost of the same
1.14 motel or hotel room for the same date;

1.15 (2) to purchase hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies to support compliance with
1.16 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidance on sanitation and personal protective
1.17 equipment; and

1.18 (3) to hire staff necessary to protect the health and wellness of program recipients, to
1.19 increase the number of persons served, or to provide staffing when workers are quarantined
1.20 or cannot work because they are caring for someone with COVID-19.

1.21 (b) Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary, the commissioner of human
1.22 services may allocate money to programs, providers, and organizations providing or seeking

2.1 to provide services to individuals experiencing homelessness through a single fiscal agent  
2.2 chosen by the commissioner of human services.

2.3 (c) Grant applicants must describe how the applicants intend to use grant money for the  
2.4 purposes listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3). Grant money may be used by grant  
2.5 recipients for the activities listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3).

2.6 (d) If the commissioner of human services receives money from a nonstate source other  
2.7 than a local unit of government or a tribe for activities listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1)  
2.8 to (3), the commissioner of human services must notify the commissioner of management  
2.9 and budget of the amount received from the nonstate source. The commissioner of human  
2.10 services shall supplant state funding with funding from the nonstate source up to the amount  
2.11 of funding provided under this section, to the extent permitted. All state funding replaced  
2.12 with nonstate funding must be deposited in the general fund.

2.13 (e) If a grant recipient receives money from a nonstate source other than a local unit of  
2.14 government or a tribe for activities listed in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), the grant  
2.15 recipient must notify the commissioner of human services of the amount received from the  
2.16 nonstate source. If the commissioner of human services determines that the total amount  
2.17 that the grant recipient received under this section and from the nonstate source exceeds  
2.18 the grant recipient's costs for the activities in paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), the grant  
2.19 recipient must pay the commissioner of human services the amount that exceeds the costs,  
2.20 up to the amount of funding provided under this section. All money paid to the commissioner  
2.21 of human services under this section must be deposited in the general fund.

2.22 (f) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days  
2.23 after expiration of the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order  
2.24 that relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, whichever occurs earlier. Any  
2.25 unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

2.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.27 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; ISOLATION SPACES.**

2.28 (a) \$4,306,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the  
2.29 commissioner of human services to establish and maintain isolation spaces from January  
2.30 1, 2021, to February 28, 2021, for suspected or confirmed COVID-positive individuals who  
2.31 are experiencing homelessness or who cannot safely isolate at home and who do not require  
2.32 a hospital level of care.

3.1 (b) The commissioner of human services may enter into contracts with local units of  
3.2 government as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 4A.07, subdivision 1, paragraph (a);  
3.3 tribal governments; and nonprofit organizations or directly purchase goods or services  
3.4 necessary to provide isolation spaces or services related to establishing or maintaining such  
3.5 spaces.

3.6 (c) Notwithstanding any other law or rule to the contrary, the commissioner of human  
3.7 services may allocate funding to maintain and extend existing contracts for isolation spaces  
3.8 entered into with Coronavirus Relief Funds awarded as a result of 2020 Legislative Advisory  
3.9 Commission order number 48. The commissioner of human services may also enter into  
3.10 new contracts with eligible entities under Minnesota Statutes, section 12.36.

3.11 (d) If the commissioner of human services receives money from a nonstate source other  
3.12 than a local unit of government or a tribe for activities under this section, the commissioner  
3.13 of human services must notify the commissioner of management and budget of the amount  
3.14 received from the nonstate source. The commissioner of human services shall supplant state  
3.15 funding with funding from the nonstate source up to the amount of funding provided under  
3.16 this section, to the extent permitted. All state funding replaced with nonstate funding must  
3.17 be deposited in the general fund.

3.18 (e) If an organization under contract to provide isolation spaces under this section receives  
3.19 money from a nonstate source other than a local unit of government or a tribe for activities  
3.20 under this section, the organization must notify the commissioner of human services of the  
3.21 amount received from the nonstate source. If the commissioner of human services determines  
3.22 that the total amount that the organization received under this section and from the nonstate  
3.23 source exceeds the organization's costs for the activities under this section, the organization  
3.24 must pay the commissioner of human services the amount that exceeds the costs, up to the  
3.25 amount of funding provided under this section. All money paid to the commissioner of  
3.26 human services under this section must be deposited in the general fund.

3.27 (f) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2021, or until 60 days  
3.28 after expiration of the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order  
3.29 that relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19, whichever occurs earlier. Any  
3.30 unexpended amounts that are not obligated by that date shall cancel to the general fund.

3.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

4.1 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; HOUSING SUPPORT.**

4.2 (a) \$4,235,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the  
4.3 commissioner of human services to increase room and board rates under Minnesota Statutes,  
4.4 chapter 256I, by 10.7 percent for purposes of maintaining access to room and board, including  
4.5 activities necessary to comply with federal and state health and safety guidance in response  
4.6 to the COVID-19 pandemic, from January 1, 2021, to February 28, 2021. This is a onetime  
4.7 appropriation.

4.8 (b) Prior to July 1, 2021, providers must submit documentation demonstrating increased  
4.9 funding was used for needs related to COVID-19 for the time period during which the  
4.10 money appropriated under this section was expended.

4.11 (c) If the commissioner of human services receives money from a nonstate source other  
4.12 than a local unit of government or a tribe for activities under paragraph (a), the commissioner  
4.13 of human services must notify the commissioner of management and budget of the amount  
4.14 received from the nonstate source. The commissioner of human services shall supplant state  
4.15 funding with funding from the nonstate source up to the amount of funding provided under  
4.16 this section, to the extent permitted. All state funding replaced with nonstate funding must  
4.17 be deposited in the general fund.

4.18 (d) If a housing support provider receives money from a nonstate source other than a  
4.19 local unit of government or a tribe for activities under paragraph (a), the housing support  
4.20 provider must notify the commissioner of human services of the amount received from the  
4.21 nonstate source. If the commissioner of human services determines that the total amount  
4.22 that the housing support provider received under this section and from the nonstate source  
4.23 exceeds the housing support provider's costs for the activities under paragraph (a), the  
4.24 housing support provider must pay the commissioner of human services the amount that  
4.25 exceeds the costs, up to the amount of funding provided under this section. All money paid  
4.26 to the commissioner of human services under this section must be deposited in the general  
4.27 fund.

4.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.