

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

S.F. No. 1418

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOUSLEY)

DATE
02/25/2021

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Higher Education Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; moving the spinal cord injury and traumatic brain
1.3 injury research grant program to the Department of Human Services; appropriating
1.4 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 256; repealing
1.5 Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 136A.901; 136A.902.

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

1.7 Section 1. [256.4791] SPINAL CORD INJURY AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
1.8 RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.

1.9 Subdivision 1. Grant program. (a) The commissioner shall establish a grant program
1.10 to award grants to institutions in Minnesota for research into spinal cord injuries and traumatic
1.11 brain injuries. Grants shall be awarded to conduct research into new and innovative treatments
1.12 and rehabilitative efforts for the functional improvement of people with spinal cord and
1.13 traumatic brain injuries. Research topics may include but are not limited to pharmaceutical,
1.14 medical device, brain stimulus, and rehabilitative approaches and techniques. The
1.15 commissioner, in consultation with the advisory council established under section 256.4792,
1.16 shall award 50 percent of the grant funds for research involving spinal cord injuries and 50
1.17 percent to research involving traumatic brain injuries. In addition to the amounts appropriated
1.18 by law, the commissioner may accept additional funds from private and public sources.
1.19 Amounts received from private and public sources are appropriated to the commissioner
1.20 for the purposes of issuing grants under this section.

1.21 (b) A spinal cord and traumatic brain injury grant account is established in the special
1.22 revenue fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner to make grants
1.23 and to administer the grant program under this section. Appropriations to the commissioner

2.1 for the program are for transfer to the account. Appropriations from the account do not
2.2 cancel and are available until expended.

2.3 Subd. 2. **Report.** By January 15, 2022, and each January 15 thereafter, the commissioner
2.4 shall submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house
2.5 of representatives committees having jurisdiction over the Department of Human Services
2.6 specifying the institutions receiving grants under this section and the purposes for which
2.7 the grant funds were used.

2.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

2.9 Sec. 2. **[256.4792] SPINAL CORD INJURY AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**
2.10 **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

2.11 Subdivision 1. **Membership.** The commissioner shall appoint a 14-member advisory
2.12 council consisting of:

2.13 (1) one member representing the University of Minnesota Medical School;

2.14 (2) one member representing the Mayo Medical School;

2.15 (3) one member representing the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Center;

2.16 (4) one member representing Hennepin County Medical Center;

2.17 (5) one member who is a neurosurgeon;

2.18 (6) one member who has a spinal cord injury;

2.19 (7) one member who is a family member of a person with a spinal cord injury;

2.20 (8) one member who has a traumatic brain injury;

2.21 (9) one member who is a family member of a person with a traumatic brain injury;

2.22 (10) one member who is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury;

2.23 (11) one member who is a veteran who has a traumatic brain injury;

2.24 (12) one member who is a physician specializing in the treatment of spinal cord injury;

2.25 (13) one member who is a physician specializing in the treatment of traumatic brain
2.26 injury; and

2.27 (14) one member representing Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

2.28 Subd. 2. **Organization.** The advisory council shall be organized and administered under
2.29 section 15.059, except that subdivision 2 shall not apply. Except as provided in subdivision

3.1 4, the commissioner shall appoint council members to two-year terms and appoint one
3.2 member as chair. The advisory council does not expire.

3.3 Subd. 3. **First appointments and first meeting.** The commissioner shall appoint the
3.4 first members of the council by September 1, 2021. The chair shall convene the first meeting
3.5 by November 1, 2021.

3.6 Subd. 4. **Terms of initial council members.** The commissioner shall designate six of
3.7 the initial council members to serve one-year terms and six to serve two-year terms.

3.8 Subd. 5. **Conflict of interest.** Council members must disclose in a written statement
3.9 any financial interest in any organization that the council recommends to receive a grant.
3.10 The written statement must accompany the grant recommendations and must explain the
3.11 nature of the conflict. The council is not subject to policies developed by the commissioner
3.12 of administration under section 16B.98.

3.13 Subd. 6. **Duties.** The advisory council shall:

3.14 (1) develop criteria for evaluating and awarding the research grants under section
3.15 256.4791;

3.16 (2) review research proposals and make recommendations by January 15 of each year
3.17 to the commissioner for purposes of awarding grants under section 256.4791; and

3.18 (3) perform other duties as authorized by the commissioner.

3.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

3.20 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; SPINAL CORD AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY**
3.21 **RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.**

3.22 \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from
3.23 the general fund to the commissioner of human services for the spinal cord and traumatic
3.24 brain injury research grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 256.4791.

3.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

3.26 Sec. 4. **REPEALER.**

3.27 Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 136A.901; and 136A.902, are repealed.

3.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

136A.901 SPINAL CORD INJURY AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH GRANT PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Grant program.** (a) The commissioner shall establish a grant program to award grants to institutions in Minnesota for research into spinal cord injuries and traumatic brain injuries. Grants shall be awarded to conduct research into new and innovative treatments and rehabilitative efforts for the functional improvement of people with spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries. Research topics may include, but are not limited to, pharmaceutical, medical device, brain stimulus, and rehabilitative approaches and techniques. The commissioner, in consultation with the advisory council established under section 136A.902, shall award 50 percent of the grant funds for research involving spinal cord injuries and 50 percent to research involving traumatic brain injuries. In addition to the amounts appropriated by law, the commissioner may accept additional funds from private and public sources. Amounts received from these sources are appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of issuing grants under this section.

(b) A spinal cord and traumatic brain injury grant account is established in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner to make grants and to administer the grant program under this section. Appropriations to the commissioner for the program are for transfer to the account. Appropriations from the account do not cancel and are available until expended.

Subd. 2. **Report.** By January 15, 2016, and each January 15 thereafter, the commissioner shall submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees having jurisdiction over the Office of Higher Education, specifying the institutions receiving grants under this section and the purposes for which the grant funds were used.

136A.902 SPINAL CORD AND TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ADVISORY COUNCIL.

Subdivision 1. **Membership.** The commissioner shall appoint a 14-member advisory council consisting of:

- (1) one member representing the University of Minnesota Medical School;
- (2) one member representing the Mayo Medical School;
- (3) one member representing the Courage Kenny Rehabilitation Center;
- (4) one member representing Hennepin County Medical Center;
- (5) one member who is a neurosurgeon;
- (6) one member who has a spinal cord injury;
- (7) one member who is a family member of a person with a spinal cord injury;
- (8) one member who has a traumatic brain injury;
- (9) one member who is a veteran who has a spinal cord injury;
- (10) one member who is a veteran who has a traumatic brain injury;
- (11) one member who is a family member of a person with a traumatic brain injury;
- (12) one member who is a physician specializing in the treatment of spinal cord injury;
- (13) one member who is a physician specializing in the treatment of traumatic brain injury; and
- (14) one member representing Gillette Children's Specialty Healthcare.

Subd. 2. **Organization.** The advisory council shall be organized and administered under section 15.059, except that subdivision 2 shall not apply. Except as provided in subdivision 4, the commissioner shall appoint council members to two-year terms and appoint one member as chair. The advisory council does not expire.

Subd. 3. **First appointments and first meeting.** The commissioner shall appoint the first members of the council by September 1, 2015. The chair shall convene the first meeting by November 1, 2015.

Subd. 4. **Terms of initial council members.** The commissioner shall designate six of the initial council members to serve one-year terms and six to serve two-year terms.

Subd. 5. **Conflict of interest.** Council members must disclose in a written statement any financial interest in any organization that the council recommends to receive a grant. The written statement

APPENDIX
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 21-02742

must accompany the grant recommendations and must explain the nature of the conflict. The council is not subject to policies developed by the commissioner of administration under section 16B.98.

Subd. 6. **Duties.** The advisory council shall:

- (1) develop criteria for evaluating and awarding the research grants under section 136A.901;
- (2) review research proposals and make recommendations by January 15 of each year to the commissioner for purposes of awarding grants under section 136A.901; and
- (3) perform other duties as authorized by the commissioner.