

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL SESSION**

S.F. No. 160

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAYDEN, Torres Ray, Dibble and Dzedzic)

DATE
06/19/2020

D-PG

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; directing the commissioner of human services to
1.3 convene a task force to develop an immediate solution to relocate and reduce the
1.4 homeless encampment in Powderhorn Park, and to develop medium-term and
1.5 long-term solutions to homelessness; appropriating money.

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

1.7 Section 1. **DIRECTION TO COMMISSIONER OF HUMAN SERVICES;**
1.8 **HOMELESSNESS CRISIS PLAN.**

1.9 (a) The commissioner of human services shall consult with county agencies, city
1.10 government officials, other state commissioners, nonprofit and private entities that provide
1.11 housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness, members of the public, and
1.12 other stakeholders with experience serving individuals experiencing homelessness or
1.13 addressing homelessness crises to develop and implement, by July 3, 2020, a plan to reduce
1.14 the size of the homeless encampment at Powderhorn Park in Minneapolis by obtaining
1.15 housing for individuals currently living in the encampment at shelters or other housing that
1.16 meets their health and safety needs, including their need for care to mitigate the effects of
1.17 COVID-19 or for resources to ensure their compliance with public health COVID-19
1.18 guidance.

1.19 (b) The commissioner of human services shall consult with county agencies, city
1.20 government officials, other state commissioners, nonprofit and private entities that provide
1.21 housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness, members of the public, and
1.22 other stakeholders with experience serving individuals experiencing homelessness or
1.23 addressing homelessness crises to develop medium-term and long-term solutions and policy

2.1 recommendations by December 30, 2020, including legislative proposals for the 2021
2.2 legislative session that would:

2.3 (1) reduce the proliferation of homeless encampments in Minneapolis and St. Paul,
2.4 including but not limited to providing increased financial support for homeless shelters and
2.5 services, rental assistance, affordable housing, and housing development for individuals
2.6 earning less than 30 percent of the area median income;

2.7 (2) meet homeless individuals' ongoing needs for care to mitigate the effects of COVID-19
2.8 or for resources to ensure that the plan complies with public health COVID-19 guidance;
2.9 and

2.10 (3) provide specific policy recommendations to local authorities and agencies, following
2.11 consultation with the commissioner of public safety and other relevant stakeholders, that
2.12 would reduce and prevent homelessness and reduce criminalization of homeless individuals.

2.13 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; POWDERHORN PARK HOMELESS ENCAMPMENT**
2.14 **PLAN AND ONGOING HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS.**

2.15 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the coronavirus relief fund to the
2.16 commissioner of human services to implement the plan to reduce the homeless encampment
2.17 in Powderhorn Park under section 1, paragraph (a). This is a onetime appropriation.

2.18 (b) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the coronavirus relief fund to the
2.19 commissioner of human services for the ongoing homelessness solutions developed under
2.20 section 1, paragraph (b). This is a onetime appropriation.