

SENATE

STATE OF MINNESOTA

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1664

(SENATE AUTHORS: SPARKS and Nelson)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/12/2015	775	Introduction and first reading Referred to Finance
03/08/2016	4916	Author added Nelson

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to economic development; appropriating money for sustainable child

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care in rural Minnesota.

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

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Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA INITIATIVE FOUNDATIONS.**

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(a) \$1,500,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2016 from the general fund to the

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commissioner of employment and economic development for a grant to the Minnesota

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Initiative Foundations. This appropriation is available until expended.

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(b) The Minnesota Initiative Foundations must use grant funds under this section to:

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(1) facilitate planning processes for rural communities resulting in a community

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solution action plan that guides decision making to sustain and increase the supply of

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quality child care in the region to support economic development;

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(2) engage the private sector to invest local resources to support the community

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solution action plan and ensure child care is a vital component of additional regional

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economic development planning processes;

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(3) provide small business development resources, training, and technical assistance

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to rural child care business owners through a learning cohort. Access to financial and

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business development assistance must endeavor to prepare child care businesses for

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quality engagement and improvement by stabilizing operations, leveraging funding from

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other sources, and fostering business acumen that allows child care businesses to plan for

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and afford the cost of quality; and

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(4) recruit child care programs to participate in Parent Aware, Minnesota's quality and

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improvement rating system, by providing targeted resources designed to encourage high

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levels of participation. The Minnesota Initiative Foundations must work with local partners

- 2.1 to provide low-cost training, professional development opportunities, and curriculum. The
- 2.2 Minnesota Initiative Foundations must fund, through local partners, an enhanced level of
- 2.3 coaching to rural child care providers to obtain a quality rating through Parent Aware.