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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4519

03/23/2022

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to economic development; establishing a grant program for counties on  
1.3 the Canadian border to create community testing programs for COVID-19; requiring  
1.4 reports; appropriating money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **NORTHERN BORDER COMMUNITY TESTING GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following definitions  
1.8 apply.

1.9 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.

1.10 (c) "Eligible applicants" means a county adjoining the border with Canada.

1.11 (d) "Program" means the northern border community testing grant program.

1.12 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** The commissioner of employment and economic development  
1.13 shall establish a northern border community testing grant program to make grants to eligible  
1.14 applicants to establish community testing programs for COVID-19.

1.15 Subd. 3. **Application process.** The commissioner shall establish an application process  
1.16 for receiving a grant under this section. Eligible applicants shall apply using that process  
1.17 and shall comply with all requests from the commissioner.

1.18 Subd. 4. **Grants.** Grant money must be used only for the costs of establishing and  
1.19 operating a community testing program for COVID-19. To be an eligible use of grant money,  
1.20 these costs must be expenses for COVID-19 response that are eligible for Federal Emergency  
1.21 Management Agency reimbursement.

2.1 Subd. 5. Report. By December 31, 2023, the commissioner shall submit a report to the  
2.2 chairs of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over economic development and  
2.3 COVID-19 testing on funds spent under this section.

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

2.5 Sec. 2. NORTHERN BORDER COMMUNITY TESTING GRANT PROGRAM;  
2.6 APPROPRIATION.

2.7 (a) \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the state fiscal recovery federal  
2.8 fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the northern border  
2.9 community testing grant program. Of this amount, up to four percent may be used for  
2.10 administration.

2.11 (b) For the purposes of this act, "state fiscal recovery federal fund" means funds received  
2.12 by the state from the state fiscal recovery fund in the American Rescue Plan Act, Public  
2.13 Law 117-2. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until December 31, 2026. Any  
2.14 funds not obligated by eligible organizations by November 15, 2024, must be returned to  
2.15 the commissioner of management and budget.

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