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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **1772**

03/01/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to corrections; providing homeownership guidance for eligible supporters
1.3 of felony-convicted persons who are incarcerated; requiring a report; appropriating
1.4 money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **PEACE OF HOPE HOMEOWNERSHIP FOR SUPPORTERS OF THE**
1.7 **INCARCERATED PILOT PROJECT.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "supporter" or "supporters"
1.9 means families, significant others, and important friends with whom a felony-convicted
1.10 person has resided or has had significant contact.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Grant.** (a) The commissioner of corrections shall award a grant to Peace of
1.12 Hope, Inc. to develop and implement the Peace of Hope Homeownership for Supporters of
1.13 the Incarcerated pilot project to provide homeownership guidance for up to 50 supporters
1.14 of persons who are incarcerated for a felony offense. The pilot project shall assist the
1.15 supporter for six to 18 months to become a homeowner by providing, at a minimum:

1.16 (1) education on homeownership including but not limited to basic use and operation
1.17 of homes such as plumbing, electricity, painting, heating, yard care, and garbage and
1.18 recycling; maintenance of the home and property; and small project building;

1.19 (2) life coaching for budgeting, planning, credit repair, county and city resources, and
1.20 responsibilities of homeowners;

1.21 (3) a realtor;

1.22 (4) a mortgage consultant;

2.1 (5) a one-week living experience in a model home; and

2.2 (6) transportation to visit potential homes for purchase.

2.3 (b) The Peace of Hope Support for Homeownership for Supporters of the Incarcerated
2.4 pilot project shall serve supporters of persons who are at felony offender risk levels and
2.5 incarcerated in state correctional facilities or jails. The pilot project shall operate from
2.6 September 1, 2021, through August 31, 2023.

2.7 Subd. 3. **Participant eligibility.** A supporter is eligible to participate in the pilot project
2.8 if the supporter:

2.9 (1) is not a homeowner;

2.10 (2) is affected by an individual who is incarcerated for a felony and scheduled to be
2.11 released within six to 12 months to the supporter's residence;

2.12 (3) has a family size of two or more individuals;

2.13 (4) is employed or has a verifiable income;

2.14 (5) has a credit score of 550 or higher; and

2.15 (6) has rental history for the most recent two years.

2.16 Subd. 4. **Goals of pilot project.** The goals of the pilot project are to:

2.17 (1) provide strengthened sustainable homeownership opportunities for supporters who
2.18 are waiting for reunification with the individual incarcerated for a felony conviction;

2.19 (2) promote familial unity and strengthen the bonds of the familial network during the
2.20 individual's incarceration and reentry into the community;

2.21 (3) reduce the possibility of being homeless for the individual who has the stigma of
2.22 being a convicted felon and who is reentering the community after incarceration;

2.23 (4) relieve stresses such as separation anxiety, severe depression, fear, inability to function
2.24 at the highest level in social settings, including at a minimum work and school, and many
2.25 other maladies associated with supporters who are unable to communicate with an
2.26 incarcerated individual.

2.27 Subd. 5. **Evaluation; report.** By November 1, 2023, Peace of Hope, Inc. must report
2.28 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate
2.29 committees with jurisdiction over corrections on the development, implementation, impact,
2.30 and outcomes of the pilot project.

3.1 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.2 \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.3 of corrections for a grant to Peace of Hope, Inc. for the Peace of Hope Homeownership for
3.4 Supporters of the Incarcerated pilot project under section 1. This appropriation is available
3.5 through November 1, 2023.