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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **3530**

03/23/2016   Authored by Mullery

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Higher Education Policy and Finance

1.1   A bill for an act

1.2   relating to higher education; expanding the child care grant program; amending

1.3   Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 136A.125, subdivision 4.

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

1.5   Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 136A.125, subdivision 4,

1.6   is amended to read:

1.7   Subd. 4. **Amount and length of grants.** (a) The amount of a child care grant

1.8   must be based on:

1.9   (1) the income of the applicant and the applicant's spouse;

1.10   (2) the number in the applicant's family, as defined by the office; and

1.11   (3) the number of eligible children in the applicant's family.

1.12   (b) The maximum award to the applicant shall be ~~$2,800~~ $6,500 for each eligible

1.13   child per academic year, except that the campus financial aid officer may apply to the

1.14   office for approval to increase grants by up to ten percent to compensate for higher market

1.15   charges for infant care in a community. The office shall develop policies to determine

1.16   community market costs and review institutional requests for compensatory grant

1.17   increases to ensure need and equal treatment. The office shall prepare a chart to show the

1.18   amount of a grant that will be awarded per child based on the factors in this subdivision.

1.19   The chart shall include a range of income and family size.

1.20   (c) Applicants with family incomes at or below a percentage of the federal poverty

1.21   level, as determined by the commissioner, will qualify for the maximum award. The

1.22   commissioner shall attempt to set the percentage at a level estimated to fully expend the

1.23   available appropriation for child care grants. Applicants with family incomes exceeding

Section 1.   1

2.1   that threshold will receive the maximum award minus ten percent of their income

2.2   exceeding that threshold. If the result is less than zero, the grant is zero.

2.3   (d) The academic year award amount must be disbursed by academic term using the

2.4   following formula:

2.5   (1) the academic year amount described in paragraph (b);

2.6   (2) divided by the number of terms in the academic year;

2.7   (3) divided by 15; and

2.8   (4) multiplied by the number of credits for which the student is enrolled that

2.9   academic term, up to 15 credits.

2.10   (e) Payments shall be made each academic term to the student or to the child care

2.11   provider, as determined by the institution. Institutions may make payments more than

2.12   once within the academic term.

2.13   **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2016.