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

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

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

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

(b) The commissioner of human services shall consult with county agencies, city
government officials, other state commissioners, nonprofit and private entities that provide
housing and services to individuals experiencing homelessness, members of the public, and
other stakeholders with experience serving individuals experiencing homelessness or
addressing homelessness crises to develop medium-term and long-term solutions and policy
recommendations by December 30, 2020, including legislative proposals for the 2021 legislative session that would:

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

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

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

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

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

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