

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.F. No. 2231

(SENATE AUTHORS: FATEH)

DATE
03/01/2023

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Jobs and Economic Development

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to workforce development; appropriating money for job training, income
1.3 support, and business development programs focused on Black-owned businesses.

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

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; JOB TRAINING AND INCOME SUPPORT.**

1.6 \$25,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
1.7 of employment and economic development for the following purposes:

1.8 (1) \$5,000,000 is to develop a comprehensive job training program focusing on the top
1.9 ten zip code areas with highest unemployment statistics;

1.10 (2) \$5,000,000 is to provide employment training to individuals formerly incarcerated
1.11 or in foster care;

1.12 (3) \$10,000,000 is for efforts that protect low wage workers and ensure that all families
1.13 can meet their basic needs by funding navigator positions at community partners in
1.14 communities with the greatest need; and

1.15 (4) \$5,000,000 is for efforts that ensure that people having trouble meeting basic needs
1.16 can access income support that provides them and their families with the housing, health
1.17 care, cash assistance, job training, and essential nutrition.

1.18 The commissioner of employment and economic development may contract with local
1.19 agencies with experience working with under-represented communities to carry out the
1.20 purposes of this section. This appropriation does not lapse and is available either year of
1.21 the biennium.

2.1 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES.**

2.2 \$30,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.3 of employment and economic development for the following purposes:

2.4 (1) \$10,000,000 is for at-home business training and business startup support serving
2.5 the Black community;

2.6 (2) \$5,000,000 is for a loan guarantee program and an increase in allowable loan
2.7 guarantees for the economic development of Black owned and led businesses. Efforts must
2.8 also address discriminatory practices in hiring, banking, and finance;

2.9 (3) \$5,000,000 is to bridge the wealth and economic gaps by increasing employability
2.10 of those facing chronic unemployment and diminished economic mobility; and

2.11 (4) \$10,000,000 is for efforts that encourage entrepreneurship with greater access to
2.12 capital and assets and support for growth of existing businesses run and led by American
2.13 Descendants of Slavery community members.

2.14 The commissioner of employment and economic development may contract with local
2.15 agencies with experience working with the Black community to carry out the purposes of
2.16 this section. This appropriation does not lapse and is available either year of the biennium.