

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

S.F. No. 4444

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DATE
03/16/2020

D-PG
5570 Introduction and first reading
Referred to E-12 Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to early childhood; governing certain programs and funding for early

1.3 childhood education; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018,

1.4 section 136A.128, subdivisions 2, 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

1.5 Statutes, chapter 119B.

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

1.7 Section 1. [119B.195] RETAINING EARLY EDUCATORS THROUGH ATTAINING

1.8 INCENTIVES NOW (REETAIN) GRANT PROGRAM.

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** The retaining early educators through attaining

1.10 incentives now (REETAIN) grant program is established to provide competitive grants to

1.11 incentivize well-trained child care professionals to stay in the workforce to create more

1.12 consistent care for children over time.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Administration.** The commissioner shall administer the REETAIN grant

1.14 program through a grant to a nonprofit organization with demonstrated ability to manage

1.15 benefit programs for child care professionals. Up to ten percent of grant funds may be used

1.16 for administration of the grant program.

1.17 Subd. 3. **Application.** An applicant must apply for the grant program using the forms

1.18 and according to the timelines established by the commissioner.

1.19 Subd. 4. **Eligibility.** (a) To be eligible for a grant, an applicant must:

1.20 (1) be licensed to provide child care or work for a licensed child care program;

1.21 (2) work directly with children at least 30 hours per week;

1.22 (3) work in their current position for at least 12 months;

(4) agree to stay in their current position for at least 12 months upon receiving a grant under this section;

(5) have a career lattice step of six or higher;

(6) have a current membership with the Minnesota quality improvement and registry tool; and

(7) meet any other requirements determined by the commissioner.

(b) Grant recipients must sign a contract agreeing to remain in their current position for at least 12 months.

Subd. 5. **Grant awards.** To the extent funding is available, a child care professional's annual amount for the REETAIN grant must not exceed an amount determined by the commissioner. A child care professional must apply each year to compete for an award and may receive up to one award per year. Grant funds may be used for program supplies, training, or personal expenses.

Subd. 6. **Report.** Beginning January 1, 2022, and each year thereafter, the commissioner must report annually to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over child care on the number of grants awarded and outcomes of the grant program.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.128, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Program components.** (a) The nonprofit organization must use the grant for:

(1) tuition scholarships up to ~~\$5,000~~ \$10,000 per year for courses leading to the nationally recognized child development associate credential or college-level courses leading to an associate's degree or bachelor's degree in early childhood development and school-age care; and

(2) education incentives of a minimum of ~~\$100~~ \$250 to participants in the tuition scholarship program if they complete a year of working in the early care and education field.

(b) Applicants for the scholarship must be employed by a licensed early childhood or child care program and working directly with children, a licensed family child care provider, employed by a public prekindergarten program, or an employee in a school-age program exempt from licensing under section 245A.03, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (12). Lower wage earners must be given priority in awarding the tuition scholarships. Scholarship recipients must contribute at least ten percent of the total scholarship and must be sponsored by their employers, who must also contribute ~~ten~~ at least five percent of the total scholarship.

3.1 Scholarship recipients who are self-employed must contribute 20 percent of the total
3.2 scholarship.

3.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 136A.128, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

3.4 Subd. 4. **Administration.** A nonprofit organization that receives a grant under this
3.5 section may use ~~five~~ ten percent of the grant amount to administer the program.

3.6 Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATION; RETAINING EARLY EDUCATORS THROUGH**
3.7 **ATTAINING INCENTIVES NOW (REETAIN) GRANT PROGRAM.**

3.8 \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.9 of human services for purposes of REETAIN grants under section 1. This is a onetime
3.10 appropriation.

3.11 Sec. 5. **APPROPRIATION; TEACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

3.12 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.13 of human services for teacher education and compensation helps (TEACH) program grants
3.14 under Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.128. This is a onetime appropriation.

3.15 Sec. 6. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

3.16 The revisor of statutes shall renumber Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.128, as a section
3.17 in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 119B. The revisor shall also make necessary cross-reference
3.18 changes consistent with the renumbering.