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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 2221

03/15/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Human Services Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to human services; long-term care; establishing a hero payment for  
1.3 long-term care workers.

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

1.5 Section 1. **HERO PAYMENTS FOR LONG-TERM CARE WORKERS.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
1.7 the meanings given.

1.8 (b) "Employee" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 290.92, subdivision  
1.9 1, paragraph (3).

1.10 (c) "Full-time employee" means an employee:

1.11 (1) whose employer considers the employee to work full-time; or

1.12 (2) who worked at least 2,000 hours at a long-term care facility during calendar year  
1.13 2020.

1.14 (d) "Long-term care facility" means:

1.15 (1) a nursing home licensed under Minnesota Statutes, sections 144A.02 to 144A.10;

1.16 (2) a boarding care home licensed under Minnesota Statutes, sections 144.50 to 144.56;  
1.17 and

1.18 (3) a housing with services establishment registered under Minnesota Statutes, chapter  
1.19 144D, that provides home care services through an arranged home care provider or operates  
1.20 under assisted living title protection under Minnesota Statutes, sections 144G.01 to 144G.07.

2.1 (e) "Qualifying long-term care employee" means an employee:

2.2 (1) whose primary work site was a long-term care facility;

2.3 (2) who worked at least 1,000 hours at a long-term care facility during calendar year  
2.4 2020;

2.5 (3) who was an employee of a long-term care facility as of March 15, 2021; and

2.6 (4) who is a resident of Minnesota.

2.7 Subd. 2. **Hero payments required.** The commissioner of revenue must make a hero  
2.8 payment of \$700 to a qualifying long-term care employee. To receive a payment, a qualifying  
2.9 long-term care employee must apply in a form and manner specified by the commissioner,  
2.10 in accordance with the schedule in subdivision 4. The payment amount is subject to the  
2.11 reduction in subdivision 3 for part-time employees.

2.12 Subd. 3. **Reduction for part-time employees.** (a) A qualifying long-term care employee  
2.13 who was not a full-time employee is eligible for a hero payment equal to \$700 times the  
2.14 employee's part-time percentage.

2.15 (b) A qualifying long-term care employee's part-time percentage equals the number of  
2.16 hours the employee worked in a long-term care facility during calendar year 2020, divided  
2.17 by 2,000.

2.18 Subd. 4. **Payment schedule.** As soon as practicable, and no later than June 1, 2021, the  
2.19 commissioner of revenue must establish a process through which a qualifying long-term  
2.20 care employee may apply for a payment under this section. A qualifying long-term care  
2.21 employee must apply for a payment by September 30, 2021, to receive a payment.

2.22 Subd. 5. **Appropriation.** An amount sufficient to make the payments required by this  
2.23 section is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of revenue.

2.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.