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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 3554

02/17/2022 Authored by Hassan, Erickson and Moller
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Policy
03/14/2022 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Education Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; modifying alternative teacher preparation program grant
1.3 eligibility; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section
1.4 136A.1276.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 136A.1276, is amended to read:

1.7 136A.1276 ALTERNATIVE TEACHER PREPARATION GRANT PROGRAM.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.9 the meanings given them.

1.10 (b) "Alternative teacher preparation program" means an alternative teacher preparation
1.11 program under section 122A.2451, subdivision 5, or an experimental teacher preparation
1.12 program under section 122A.09, subdivision 10.

1.13 (c) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the Office of Higher Education.

1.14 (d) "Program" means a teacher preparation curriculum leading to specific licensure areas.

1.15 (e) "Shortage area" means:

1.16 (1) a license shortage area defined in section 136A.1275;

1.17 (2) licensure fields and economic development regions reported by the commissioner
1.18 of education as experiencing a teacher shortage; and

1.19 (2)(3) economic development regions where there is a shortage of licensed teachers
1.20 who reflect the racial or ethnic diversity of students in the region.

2.1 (f) "Unit" means an institution or defined subdivision of the institution that has primary
2.2 responsibility for overseeing and delivering teacher preparation programs.

2.3 Subd. 2. **Establishment; eligibility.** (a) The commissioner, in consultation with the
2.4 Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board, must establish and administer a
2.5 program annually awarding grants to eligible alternative teacher preparation programs
2.6 consistent with this section.

2.7 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant, an alternative teacher preparation program must
2.8 certify that it:

2.9 (1) is working to fill Minnesota's teacher shortage areas; and

2.10 (2) is a school district, charter school, or nonprofit corporation organized under chapter
2.11 317A or under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for an
2.12 education-related purpose that has been operating continuously for at least three years in
2.13 Minnesota or any other state.

2.14 (c) The commissioner must give priority to applicants based in Minnesota when awarding
2.15 grants under this section.

2.16 (d) The commissioner may award a grant to an alternative teacher preparation program
2.17 that has previously received a grant under this section.

2.18 Subd. 3. **Use of grants.** (a) An alternative teacher preparation program receiving a grant
2.19 under this section must use the grant to:

2.20 (1) establish initial unit approval to become an alternative teacher preparation program;

2.21 (2) expand alternative teacher preparation programs by expanding program approval to
2.22 other licensure areas identified as shortage areas by the commissioner of education;

2.23 (3) recruit, select, and train teachers who reflect the racial or ethnic diversity of students
2.24 in Minnesota; or

2.25 (4) establish professional development programs for teachers who have obtained teaching
2.26 licenses through alternative teacher preparation programs.

2.27 An alternative teacher preparation program may expend grant funds on regional management
2.28 and operations, development, and central support services, including financial support and
2.29 support for technology and human services.

2.30 (b) An alternative teacher preparation program may use grant funds awarded under this
2.31 section as a match for nonstate funds, subject to paragraph (a).

3.1 (c) Appropriations made to this program do not cancel and are available until expended.

3.2 Subd. 4. **Report.** An alternative teacher preparation program receiving a grant under
 3.3 this section must submit a report to the commissioner and the Professional Educator Licensing
 3.4 and Standards Board on the grantee's ability to fill teacher shortage areas and positively
 3.5 impact student achievement where data are available and do not identify individual teachers.
 3.6 A grant recipient must submit the report required under this subdivision in the form and
 3.7 manner specified by the commissioner by January 31, 2018, and each of each even-numbered
 3.8 year thereafter for four years following the most recent year of receipt of funding under this
 3.9 program. The report must include disaggregated data regarding:

3.10 (1) the racial and ethnic diversity of teachers and teacher candidates licensed through
 3.11 the program; and

3.12 (2) program participant placement.

3.13 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.14 Subdivision 1. Department of Education. The sum indicated in this section is
 3.15 appropriated from the general fund to the Department of Education in the fiscal year
 3.16 designated.

3.17 Subd. 2. Alternative teacher preparation grant program. (a) For transfer to the
 3.18 commissioner of the Office of Higher Education for alternative teacher preparation program
 3.19 grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1276:

3.20 \$ 1,000,000 2023

3.21 (b) The commissioner may prioritize grants to new or expanding programs.

3.22 (c) The base for this program is \$1,000,000.

3.23 (d) The commissioner of the Office of Higher Education may use no more than three
 3.24 percent of this appropriation to administer the program under this subdivision.

3.25 (e) A grant recipient must submit a report to the commissioner of the Office of Higher
 3.26 Education and to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board by January 31,
 3.27 2024, in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.1276, subdivision 4.

3.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2022.