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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SECOND SPECIAL SESSION

H. F. No. 42

07/13/2020 Authored by Hassan and Xiong, J., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Public Safety and Criminal Justice Reform Finance and Policy Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to public safety; establishing an alternative to public safety emergency
1.3 response grant program to replace law enforcement responders when appropriate;
1.4 appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter
1.5 299A.

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

1.7 Section 1. 299A.375] ALTERNATIVE TO POLICE; PUBLIC SAFETY
1.8 EMERGENCY RESPONSE GRANT PROGRAM.

1.9 Subdivision 1. Program established. The commissioner of public safety shall make
1.10 grants to cities or counties to create alternative public safety emergency response programs
1.11 to respond to 911 calls and other situations that traditionally have resulted in a dispatch of
1.12 peace officers. An eligible city or county shall detail to the commissioner a plan to create
1.13 and staff such an office to replace the primary use of peace officers in a specified situation
1.14 or situations with professionals appropriately trained to deal with the emergency. Examples
1.15 of this include but are not limited to assigning mental health professionals to calls involving
1.16 individuals experiencing a mental health crisis, chemical dependency or health care
1.17 professionals to assist persons experiencing problems related to overdoses or substance
1.18 abuse, and social workers to situations involving people experiencing homelessness. The
1.19 alternative public safety emergency response professionals may call for the dispatch of
1.20 peace officers if necessary to protect the safety of those involved.

1.21 Subd. 2. Local match. Funds transferred by a city or county from law enforcement
1.22 services to a qualified alternative public safety emergency responder program shall qualify
1.23 for matching funds from the grant program.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Report.** By January 15 of every odd-numbered year, the commissioner of public  
2.2 safety shall submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and  
2.3 house of representatives committees and divisions having jurisdiction over criminal justice  
2.4 on the grant program. The report must detail the number of grants made and the amount of  
2.5 the grants, the grant recipients, what alternative police services were funded by the grants,  
2.6 and an assessment of the results of the grants.

2.7 Subd. 4. **Administrative costs.** The commissioner may use up to two percent of the  
2.8 biennial appropriation for this program to pay costs incurred by the department in  
2.9 administering it.

2.10 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.**

2.11 \$..... is appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, from the general fund to  
2.12 the commissioner of public safety for the grant program described in section 1. This money  
2.13 is added to the department's base budget.