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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3894

02/19/2024 Authored by Frederick, Brand and Hicks
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Health Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to human services; modifying emergency general assistance; requiring a
1.3 report; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256D.06, subdivision 2.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 256D.06, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 2. Emergency need. (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of subdivision 1, a grant
1.7 of emergency general assistance shall, to the extent funds are available, be made to an
1.8 eligible single adult, married couple, or family for an emergency need where the recipient
1.9 requests temporary assistance not exceeding 30 days if an emergency situation appears to
1.10 exist under written criteria adopted by the county agency. If an applicant or recipient relates
1.11 facts to the county agency which may be sufficient to constitute an emergency situation,
1.12 the county agency shall, to the extent funds are available, advise the person of the procedure
1.13 for applying for assistance according to this subdivision.

1.14 (b) The applicant must be ineligible for assistance under chapter 256J, must have annual
1.15 net income no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines for the previous
1.16 calendar year, and may receive an emergency assistance grant not more than once in any
1.17 12-month period.

1.18 (c) Funding for an emergency general assistance program is limited to the appropriation.
1.19 Each fiscal year, the commissioner shall allocate to counties and participating Tribal nations
1.20 the money appropriated for emergency general assistance grants based on each county
1.21 agency's average share of state's emergency general expenditures for the immediate past
1.22 three fiscal years as determined by the commissioner, and may reallocate any unspent
1.23 amounts to other counties. When determining allocation amounts, the commissioner may

2.1 disregard fiscal years or periods of fiscal years in which a federally declared public health  
2.2 emergency is in effect. No county shall be allocated less than \$1,000 \$7,500 for a fiscal  
2.3 year.

2.4 (d) Any emergency general assistance expenditures by a county above the amount of  
2.5 the commissioner's allocation to the county must be made from county funds.

2.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2024.

2.7 Sec. 2. **EMERGENCY GENERAL ASSISTANCE ALLOCATION STUDY.**

2.8 The commissioner of human services, in consultation with interested community  
2.9 members, must study alternative methodologies for allocating emergency general assistance  
2.10 grants authorized under Minnesota Statutes, section 256D.06, subdivision 2, to reflect the  
2.11 most current regional demographic and economic factors, and develop recommendations,  
2.12 including any statutory changes needed to implement the recommendations. The  
2.13 commissioner must submit the study and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority  
2.14 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services  
2.15 policy and finance by February 1, 2026.