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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

**H. F. No. 1445**

03/11/2013 Authored by Clark; Dehn, R.; Allen and Wagenius

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

03/14/2013 Adoption of Report: Pass and re-referred to the Committee on Health and Human Services Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to public health; establishing a health housing grant program;  
1.3 appropriating money for health housing grants and lead poisoning prevention  
1.4 activities; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 144.  
1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **[144.9513] HEALTHY HOUSING GRANTS.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section and sections 144.9501 to  
1.8 144.9512, the following terms have the meanings given.

1.9 (a) "Housing" means a room or group of rooms located within a dwelling forming  
1.10 a single habitable unit with facilities used or intended to be used for living, sleeping,  
1.11 cooking, and eating.

1.12 (b) "Healthy housing" means housing that is sited, designed, built, renovated, and  
1.13 maintained in ways that supports the health of residents.

1.14 (c) "Housing-based health threat" means a chemical, biologic, or physical agent in  
1.15 the immediate housing environment which constitutes a potential or actual hazard to  
1.16 human health at acute or chronic exposure levels.

1.17 (d) "Primary prevention" means preventing exposure to housing-based health threats  
1.18 before seeing clinical symptoms or a diagnosis.

1.19 (e) "Secondary prevention" means intervention to mitigate health effects on people  
1.20 with housing-based health threats.

1.21 Subd. 2. **Grants; administration.** Grant applicants shall submit applications to  
1.22 the commissioner as directed by a request for proposals. Grants must be competitively  
1.23 awarded and recipients of a grant under this section must prepare and submit a quarterly  
1.24 progress report to the commissioner beginning three months after receipt of the grant. The

commissioner shall provide technical assistance and program support as needed to ensure that housing-based health threats are effectively identified, mitigated, and evaluated by grantees.

**Subd. 3. Education and training grant; eligible activities.** (a) Within the limits of available appropriations, the commissioner shall make a grant to a nonprofit organization with expertise in providing outreach, education, and training on healthy homes subjects and in providing comprehensive healthy homes assessments and interventions to provide healthy housing education, training, and technical assistance services for persons engaged in addressing housing-based health threats and other individuals impacted by housing-based health threats.

(b) The grantee must conduct the following activities:

(1) implement and maintain primary prevention programs to reduce housing-based health threats that include the following:

(i) providing education materials to the general public and to property owners, contractors, code officials, health care providers, public health professionals, health educators, nonprofit organizations, and other persons and organizations engaged in housing and health issues;

(ii) promoting awareness of community, legal, and housing resources; and

(iii) promoting the use of hazard reduction measures in new housing construction and housing rehabilitation programs;

(2) provide training on identifying and addressing housing-based health threats;

(3) provide technical assistance on the implementation of mitigation measures;

(4) promote adoption of evidence-based best practices for mitigation of housing-based health threats; and

(5) develop work practices for addressing specific housing-based health threats.

**Subd. 4. Healthy homes implementation grant; eligible activities.** Within the limits of available appropriations, the commissioner shall make grants to local boards of health to support implementation of healthy housing programs in local jurisdictions for the following activities:

(1) identify, characterize, and mitigate hazards in housing that contribute to adverse health outcomes;

(2) ensure screening services and other secondary prevention measures are provided to populations at high risk for housing-based health threats;

(3) promote compliance with Department of Health guidelines and other best practices, as identified by the commissioner, for preventing or reducing housing-based health threats;

- 3.1 (4) establish local or regional collaborative groups to ensure that resources for  
3.2 addressing housing-based health threats are coordinated; and  
3.3 (5) develop model programs for addressing housing-based health threats.

3.4 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.5 (a) \$400,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
3.6 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for education and training grants  
3.7 under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.9513, subdivision 3, and are added to the program's  
3.8 base funding.

3.9 (b) \$800,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$800,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
3.10 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for healthy homes implementation  
3.11 grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 144.9513, subdivision 4, and are added to the  
3.12 program's base funding.

3.13 (c) \$450,000 in fiscal year 2014 and \$450,000 in fiscal year 2015 are appropriated  
3.14 from the general fund to the commissioner of health for lead poisoning prevention  
3.15 activities under Minnesota Statutes, sections 144.9501 to 144.9512, and are added to the  
3.16 program's base funding.