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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/20/2012	3851	Introduction and first reading Referred to Jobs and Economic Growth

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to unemployment compensation; creating the Bridge to Work Minnesota

1.3program; providing job-training incentives.

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

1.5Section 1. **BRIDGE TO WORK MINNESOTA.**

1.6Subdivision 1. **Purpose.** The commissioner of employment and economic

1.7development shall implement Bridge to Work Minnesota, a pilot on-the-job training

1.8incentive program for eligible individuals who are currently unemployed. Administrative

1.9costs for this program must be paid from existing general fund appropriations.

1.10Participation in the program is limited to 5,000 applicants per year to be selected on

1.11a first-come, first-served basis.

1.12Subd. 2. **Eligible individuals.** An individual eligible for job training under this

1.13section must be:

- 1.14(1) currently unemployed; and
- 1.15(2) eligible for unemployment insurance benefits under Minnesota Statutes, section
- 1.16268.085, subdivision 1, clauses (1), (2), (3), (6), and (7).

1.17Subd. 3. **Training provided.** In addition to unemployment benefits received, an

1.18eligible individual may receive on-the-job training at an eligible employer up to 25 hours

1.19per week, for up to eight weeks. An employer must pay an earnings stipend to an eligible

1.20individual as provided in subdivision 4. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section

1.21268.085, subdivision 5, any earnings from a stipend under this section do not reduce the

1.22amount of unemployment benefits received.

1.23Subd. 4. **Eligible employers.** An employer is eligible to participate under this

1.24section if:

2.1           (1) the employer provides bona fide and ongoing on-the-job training during the  
2.2 training period;

2.3           (2) the training provided is for a position that pays a wage at least equal to 175  
2.4 percent of the federal poverty guideline for a family of four;

2.5           (3) the earnings stipend paid to the individual equals or exceeds the applicable  
2.6 hourly minimum wage established under Minnesota Statutes, section 177.24, or United  
2.7 States Code, title 29, section 201 et seq., as amended, whichever is greater; and

2.8           (4) the employer agrees to hire the individual for at least 90 days after the training  
2.9 period ends.

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