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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 1541

02/25/2021 Authored by Thompson and Keeler
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Education Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; establishing grants for African immigrant youth and family
1.3 outreach programs; appropriating money.

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

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; AFRICAN IMMIGRANT YOUTH AND FAMILY
1.6 OUTREACH PROGRAMS.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Department of Education. \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$2,000,000
1.8 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of education
1.9 for grants to African immigrant youth and family outreach programs.

1.10 Subd. 2. Grant uses for African immigrant youth and family outreach programs. (a)
1.11 Activities and services supported with grant funds under this section may be provided in
1.12 collaboration with the Somali American Farmers Institute, Voice of East African Women,
1.13 and other African immigrant community organizations and stakeholders.

1.14 (b) The African immigrant youth programs must use a portion of funds received under
1.15 this section for programs targeted at African communities outside the seven-county
1.16 metropolitan area.

1.17 (c) Grant funds awarded under this section may be used to:

1.18 (1) identify and provide entrepreneurial opportunities for youth;

1.19 (2) mentor youth to stay in school;

1.20 (3) promote community education around fresh food access;

2.1 (4) develop urban farming in summer programs for African immigrant youth and family
2.2 that are structured to offer components including urban farming, physical recreation, sports,
2.3 mentorship, education enrichment, art, and social activities that are culturally appropriate;

2.4 (5) develop strategies, programs, and services, in collaboration with urban agriculture
2.5 at Somali American Farmers Institute and other community and private organizations that
2.6 provide services to at-risk African youth and families, to reduce and eliminate bullying,
2.7 abusive behavior in schools or at home, and the vulnerability of African youth to violent
2.8 organizations;

2.9 (6) develop prevention strategies, programs, and services that may include but are not
2.10 limited to expressive and receptive communications programs including after school, paid
2.11 internship, and training programs to teach and develop appropriate skills for intrafamily
2.12 communication;

2.13 (7) develop safety awareness to build protective skills and positive coping skills to deal
2.14 with bullying, domestic abuse and intrafamily violence, and violent confrontations in school
2.15 and the community; and

2.16 (8) develop culturally appropriate individual and family counseling focusing on:

2.17 (i) communication and interpersonal relations within the family in the East African
2.18 community;

2.19 (ii) fresh food access, including access to affordable organic foods, to promote food
2.20 security;

2.21 (iii) individual and family-oriented financial planning and management skill building;
2.22 and

2.23 (iv) education and employment counseling, and directly link with organizations that
2.24 provide employment skills training, living wages job search and placement, and employment
2.25 support activities and services.