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## **S.F. No. 2786 – Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Facilities Employee Bonuses Provisions and Appropriation (As amended by the A-3 amendment)**

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**Section 1** (Direction to the commissioner; initial PACE implementation funding) directs the commissioner to develop a proposal for a funding mechanism for the PACE program.

**New section 2** (Long-term care retention bonuses) establishes a new temporary grant program allowing eligible employers to apply for grants to provide \$1,000 bonuses to eligible employees who remain employed with the same employer and work an average of 20 hours per week between March 1 and August 1. The appropriation for this purpose is \$206,000,000.

**New section 3** (Long-term care signing bonuses) establishes a new temporary grant program allowing eligible employers to apply for grants to provide \$1,500 bonuses to newly hired eligible employees who remain employed with the same employer and work an average of 20 hours per week for 6 months. The appropriation for this purpose is \$30,000,000.

**New section 4** (Long-term care education and training grants) establishes a new temporary grant program allowing eligible employers to apply for funds to cover the allowable costs of education, training, and loan forgiveness for existing or newly hired employees. The appropriation for this purpose is \$30,000,000.

All three grant programs described in **new sections 2 to 4** have the same basic structure. Eligible employers for all three grants are nursing homes, boarding care homes, assisted living facilities, hospice providers, and providers of palliative care. While the retention bonus grants and the signing bonus grants distinguish between existing employees and newly hired employees, both types of employees must work in the employer's facility an average of 20 hours per week or provide direct care in a home or community-based setting an average of 20 hours per week.

All three grant programs require eligible employers to distribute the entire value of the grant in the form of bonuses, inclusive of applicable payroll taxes.

All three grant programs require an eligible employer to request a grant and make similar attestations and commitments prior to receiving the grant award, and require the commissioner to make the grant application and grant distribution process as easy and as quick as possible.

All three grant programs have language intended to prevent the costs of the bonuses or the receipt of grant funding from having any effect on future nursing facility payment rates.

**New sections 5 to 7** are the contents of the 1<sup>st</sup> engrossment of S.F. No. 2740, which was heard on February 14, 2022, in the Health and Human Services Finance and Policy Committee and recommended to pass and placed on general orders.

**New Section 5** (Temporary permit for lapsed nursing licenses) permits the Board of Nursing to issue permits to allow previously licensed nurses to temporarily practice nursing in a nursing home or assisted living facility.

**New Section 6** (Temporary assisted living staff training requirements) creates a temporary expedited pathway to allow unlicensed personnel working in assisted living facilities to become more quickly trained to provide direct care and support. The proposal is similar to existing training permitted in nursing facilities.

**New Section 7** (Temporary nursing facility voluntary correction program) creates an official mechanism for nursing facilities facing acute staffing shortages to request technical assistance from the Department of Health without fear that requesting such assistance will trigger a licensing action against the facility.

**Original section 2** is the appropriation for PACE.

**New section 9** is the appropriation for the three bonus grant programs.