

S.F. No. 1549 – Grants for Services for Youth Involved or at Risk of Becoming Involved in the Criminal or Juvenile Justice System; Task Force on Youth Interventions (1st Engrossment)

Author: Senator Bobby Joe Champion

Prepared by: Chris Turner, Fiscal Analyst (651/296-4350)

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Overview

This bill establishes a grant program through the Department of Public Safety that includes grants for prevention services, intervention services, and services to reduce barriers and invest in communities. The grant recipients must provide services relating to youth involved in or at risk of becoming involved in, the criminal or juvenile justice system. It also establishes and funds a task force on youth interventions.

Summary

Section 1. [Task Force on Youth Interventions] Establishes the task force on youth interventions to develop recommendations on the design of a regional system of care for youth interventions, sustainable financing models, and alternatives to criminal penalties. Specifies its membership and duties and addresses other administrative issues. Requires a report to the legislature. Sunsets the task force in 2024.

Section 2, subdivision 1. [Prevention services grants] Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for grants to local units of government, federally recognized Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, and nonprofits to be used to provide prevention services to prevent juveniles from entering the juvenile justice system.

Subdivision 2. [Intervention services grants] Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for grants to local units of government, federally recognized Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, and nonprofits to be used to provide intervention services to

support work to intervene on behalf of youth who are interacting with the criminal or juvenile justice system.

Subdivision 3. [Grants for services that reduce barriers and invest in communities]

Appropriates an unspecified amount of money from the general fund to the commissioner of public safety in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for grants to local units of government, federally recognized Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, and nonprofits to be used to provide services that reduce barriers for youth in avoiding the criminal or juvenile justice system and to increase investment in their communities.

Subdivision 4. [Expedited disbursement] Requires the commissioner of public safety to prepare materials needed to accept applications within three months of an appropriation for the grants in this section and requires that awards must be made within six months of an appropriation.

Subdivision 5. [Grant program administration; report required] Requires grant administration to be conducted by the Office of Justice Programs (OJP) and permits OJP to use up to 2.5 percent of the appropriation to administer the grants. Establishes an unspecified base for the appropriation in fiscal years 2026 and 2027 and cancels the grants beginning in fiscal year 2028. Requires the commissioner to prioritize awarding grants to applicants that provide culturally specific programming, programs provided by federally recognized Indian Tribes within the boundaries of Minnesota, and programs that provide gender-specific programming. Requires an annual report on the grants issued and the use of money awarded to grant recipients.

Section 3. [Appropriation; Task Force on Youth Interventions] Appropriates \$500,000 in fiscal year 2024 to fund the task force on youth interventions established in section 1.