

S.F. No. 1574 – Canadian border counties economic relief program (A-1 amendment)

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S.F. 1574 creates a relief program for businesses in counties that share a border with Canada.

Section 1. **Canadian border counties economic relief program.** Subdivision 1. **Relief program established.** Directs the Northland Foundation to create a relief program to assist businesses harmed by closures affecting Northern Minnesota in recent years.

Subdivision 2. **Available relief.** Sets requirements for making grants under the program and requires approval from the commissioner of employment and economic development for those plans. Limits grants to \$50,000 per business.

Subdivision 3. **Qualification requirements.** Establishes eligibility criteria for grants. Requires that businesses: 1) be located in a county along the Canadian border; 2) be able to document a reduction in gross receipts of at least ten percent in 2021 compared to 2019; and 3) provide a written explanation for how the recent closures resulted in that loss in revenue.

Subdivision 4. **Monitoring.** Stipulates that the Northland Foundation must establish performance measures for the grants, including information about awards and the jobs, revenue, and taxes those awards result in. Requires cooperation with the commissioner of employment and economic development who will monitor these performance measures.

Subdivision 5. **Business subsidy requirements.** Exempts the program from most statutes that normally apply when state funds are given to private businesses.

Subdivision 6. **Administrative costs.** Allows the commissioner of employment and economic development to use up to one percent of the appropriation for the program on administrative costs.

Provides the effective date for the section as July 1, 2023, and an expiration date of June 30, 2024.

Section 2. **Appropriation.** Makes a onetime general fund appropriation for the Canadian border counties economic relief program.