

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes changes in a number of laws related to the operation of the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED).

Section

- 1** **Unclassified positions.** Adds Explore Minnesota Tourism to the list of agencies that may designate additional unclassified positions in the state civil service (if the positions meet criteria specified in current law).
- 2** **Small business access to federal research funds.** Requires the commissioner of DEED to assist small businesses to access federal funds through the Small Business Innovation Research Program and the Small Business Technology Transfer Program. Unless prohibited by federal law, requires the department to implement fees for services that help companies seek small business innovation research grants. Appropriates these fee receipts to the department. (The requirement to assist small businesses and to implement fees was enacted, likely on a temporary basis, in 2005 as an appropriation rider for this program.)
- 3** **Job skills partnership grants.** Modifies current law providing that up to 25 percent of a job skills partnership board grant to an educational institution may be used for preemployment training to instead allow "a portion" of such a grant to be used for this purpose.
- 4** **Pathways program.** Similar to previous section, but for grants for developing programs that assist in the transition of persons from welfare to work and assist individuals at or below 200 percent of the federal poverty guidelines.
- 5** **Training and retention grants.** Similar to previous section, but for grants to operate

Section

training and retention programs in critical work force shortages.

- 6** **Public facilities authority director.** Provides that the director of the Public Facilities Authority serves in the unclassified state civil service.