

1.1 moves to amend H.F. No. 1857 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "Section 1. **[268A.16] EMPLOYMENT SERVICES FOR PERSONS WHO ARE**
1.4 **DEAF, DEAFBLIND, OR HARD-OF-HEARING.**

1.5 Subdivision 1. **Deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing grants.** The commissioner
1.6 shall develop and implement a statewide grant program to provide long-term, supported
1.7 employment services to persons who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing. Programs
1.8 and services eligible for grants under this section, must:

1.9 (1) assist persons who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing in obtaining and
1.10 retaining employment;

1.11 (2) provide services utilizing staff that are: fluent in all forms of manual
1.12 communication including American Sign Language; knowledgeable of hearing loss and
1.13 psycho-social implications; sensitive to cultural issues; and familiar with community
1.14 services, communication strategies for people who are hard of hearing and that do not
1.15 sign, and adaptive technology options;

1.16 (3) provide specialized employment support services to individuals who have a
1.17 combined hearing and vision loss that address their unique ongoing visual and auditory
1.18 communication needs; and

1.19 (4) involve clients in the planning, development, oversight, and delivery of support
1.20 services.

1.21 Priority for funding shall be given to organizations with experience in developing
1.22 innovative employment support services for persons who are deaf, deafblind, and
1.23 hard-of-hearing. Applicants for grants under this section must submit an evaluation
1.24 protocol as part of the grant application.

1.25 Subd. 2. **Employment services for transition-aged youth who are deaf,**
1.26 **deafblind, and hard-of-hearing.** (a) The commissioner shall develop a statewide grant
1.27 program to provide school-based communication, access, and employment services for

2.1 youth who are deaf, deafblind, and hard-of-hearing. Programs and services under this
2.2 subdivision are subject to the requirements of subdivision 1, clauses (2) and (3).

2.3 (b) Services provided under this subdivision are subject to the requirements of
2.4 subdivision 1, clauses (2) and (3) and must utilize staff experienced in serving transition
2.5 aged youth.

2.6 (c) Priority for funding shall be given to organizations with experience in providing
2.7 innovative employment support services and readiness for postsecondary training for
2.8 transition-aged youths who are deaf, deafblind and hard-of-hearing. Each applicant for
2.9 funds under this section shall submit an evaluation protocol as part of the grant application.

2.10 Subd. 3. **Limit on effective date.** This section is only effective upon enactment of a
2.11 direct appropriation for grants under this section."