

Subject Public health emergency; health care response revolving account and loan program

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Overview

This bill authorizes the governor to declare a peacetime emergency for a public health emergency, establishes a health care response revolving account and loan program, and transfers money to that account.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Public health emergency. Adds subd. 12 to § 12.03. Defines public health emergency in chapter 12, as a determination by the commissioner of health that public health is affected by or under imminent threat from pandemic influenza or an outbreak of a communicable or infectious disease that meets one of the listed criteria.
2	Declaration of peacetime emergency. Amends § 12.31, subd. 2. Allows the governor to declare a peacetime emergency when a public health emergency endangers life or property and local resources are inadequate to handle the situation. (Under current law a peacetime emergency may be declared for an act of nature, a technological malfunction or failure, a terrorist incident, an industrial accident, a hazardous materials accident, or a civil disturbance.) Also allows a public health emergency to be continued for up to 90 days, rather than five days unless extended by resolution of the Executive Council as in current law.
3	Health care response revolving account and loan program. Adds § 144.4188. Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines terms: account, communicable disease. Subd. 2. Health care response revolving account. Creates a health care response revolving account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury, and appropriates money in that account to the commissioner to make no-interest or

Section	Description
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low-interest loans to health care providers, health care clinics, health care facilities, and health systems to plan for, prepare for, or respond to an outbreak of a communicable disease; and to administer the loan program.

Subd. 3. Determination criteria; notice. Allows the commission to make no-interest or low-interest loans if the commissioner determines an outbreak of a communicable disease has occurred or is likely to occur, the communicable disease may result in certain harm to affected populations or people in an affected area, and eligible entities need additional resources to plan for, prepare for, or respond to the communicable disease outbreak. Establishes notice requirements before the commissioner may make loans under this section.

Subd. 4. Loans. Allows the commissioner to issue loans, and authorizes the commissioner to determine the number of loans issued and the loan amounts. In establishing priorities for loan issuance, directs the commissioner to consider the needs across the health care system for additional resources and whether a specific provider, clinic, facility, or system has insufficient access to other resources to respond in a timely manner or would be financially at risk without a loan. Allows the commissioner to establish forms and processes for entities to apply for a loan.

Subd. 5. Allowable uses for loans. Provides that loans may be used for the listed purposes.

Subd. 6. Loan repayments. Requires loan repayments to be credited to the account.

Subd. 7. Evaluation; reports. Allows the commissioner to require loan applicants or loan recipients to provide the commissioner with information needed to evaluate the need for or use of the loan. Establishes requirements for the commissioner to report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the health and human services legislative committees on loans issued from the account.

Subd. 8. Data classification. Classifies data held by the commissioner as private data on individuals or nonpublic data, except that names of loan recipients, loan amounts, uses of loans, and amounts spent for each use are public.

4 **Transfer; health care response revolving account.**

Directs the commissioner of management and budget to transfer a blank amount from the general fund to the health care response revolving account.



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