

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.F. No. 5356

(SENATE AUTHORS: PUTNAM)

DATE
04/08/2024

D-PG

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Health and Human Services

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to workforce development; appropriating money for the purchase and
1.3 operation of an online early childhood development professional educator program.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; ONLINE EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT**
1.6 **PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM.**

1.7 (a) \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the workforce development fund
1.8 to the commissioner of human services for the purchase and operation of an online early
1.9 childhood development professional educator program. The commissioner must select an
1.10 online provider to provide a professional development program at no cost to early childhood
1.11 educators. The program selected must include all of the coursework in English or Spanish
1.12 necessary to earn a Child Development Associate Certificate upon successful completion,
1.13 must provide courses allowing for the award of Continuing Education Units accredited by
1.14 the International Accreditors for Continuing Education and Training, must provide health
1.15 and safety courses meeting federal annual training requirements under the child care
1.16 development block grant and the child care and development fund, and must be usable for
1.17 students in high school career and technical education programs. Membership in the program
1.18 must be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to Minnesota educators currently
1.19 working in, or Minnesota residents interested in working in, licensed early education
1.20 facilities, including prekindergarten programs, child care, Head Start Centers, resource and
1.21 referral agencies, and family child care homes. The provider selected by the department
1.22 must have a platform that includes:

2.1 (1) online courses based on research and developmentally appropriate practices as defined
2.2 by national professional organizations such as the National Association for the Education
2.3 of Young Children;

2.4 (2) content that spans early childhood development from birth to age three and that
2.5 covers topics such as developmental milestones, health and safety, working with children
2.6 with special needs, supporting families, and running a high-quality early education program;

2.7 (3) courses that include videos, interactive games, knowledge checks, and writing
2.8 assignments;

2.9 (4) a system for program administrators and state agencies to capture course completion
2.10 data, certification status, and individual and group professional development progress;

2.11 (5) courses in English and Spanish;

2.12 (6) courses that are accessible on a range of computers and tablets;

2.13 (7) professional development opportunities that are both synchronous and asynchronous;

2.14 (8) a professional learning community with access to early childhood content experts
2.15 and opportunities to share knowledge with peers around the country;

2.16 (9) a user-friendly system with support by a customer help desk; and

2.17 (10) a professional development system housed on a learning management system with
2.18 proven capability to provide reliable simultaneous access to a network of early educators.

2.19 (b) The responsibilities, authorities, and appropriation under paragraph (a) shall transfer
2.20 to the Department of Children, Youth, and Families once the relevant transfers in Laws
2.21 2023, chapter 70, article 12, section 30, have occurred.