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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 129

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to education; creating a state grant program to pay for a portion of the
1.3 facility costs of certain community partnership programs; appropriating money;
1.4 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 123B.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[123B.595] COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS**
1.7 **GRANT-IN-AID ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **State assistance.** The state may pay part of the cost of construction,
1.9 maintenance, and operation expenses for school renovation projects that meet the
1.10 requirements of this section. The state's share may not exceed 50 percent of the capital
1.11 cost of any project. No more than ten percent of the state's share of future appropriations
1.12 for grants under this section may be used for professional services.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Application.** The board of a school district may request designation of
1.14 a school facility as a community partnership project. Applications shall be received by
1.15 the commissioner of education each year on a schedule established by the commissioner.
1.16 Applications shall be in the form and manner prescribed by the commissioner, but must
1.17 include a community partnership project plan.

1.18 Subd. 3. **Community partnership project plan.** A school district seeking to
1.19 designate a school facility as a community partnership project shall prepare a community
1.20 partnership project plan. The plan must include at least the following:

1.21 (1) identification of the school facility and current demographic information about
1.22 the school population as specified by the commissioner;

2.1 (2) identification of the community partners who will share space in the school
2.2 facility including a description of the services the community partner provides to the
2.3 general public;

2.4 (3) identification of capital improvements, including a detailed construction or repair
2.5 plan with an estimate of costs, required to allow the community partner to colocate in
2.6 the school facility;

2.7 (4) information establishing that the community in which the school facility is
2.8 located supports continued operation of the school facility and the ways in which the
2.9 general community will continue to support the school facility if designated a community
2.10 partnership project; and

2.11 (5) information necessary to allow the commissioner to make the determinations
2.12 under subdivision 4.

2.13 Subd. 4. **Commissioner review and approval.** (a) After review of submitted
2.14 applications and community partnership project plans, and approval of the building
2.15 projects under the review and comment process under section 123B.71, the commissioner
2.16 may award community partnership project grants to one or more school districts. The
2.17 commissioner must consider the criteria in paragraphs (b) to (e) in awarding grants.

2.18 (b) The services provided by the community partner or partners must be compatible
2.19 with continued safe use of the school facility for school purposes.

2.20 (c) The community partner or partners and the community in which the school
2.21 facility is located have committed to work with the school to provide services that will
2.22 enhance the learning experience of students at the school facility.

2.23 (d) The capital, maintenance, and operational costs of the school facility are
2.24 disproportionately high compared to the average capital, maintenance, and operational
2.25 cost-per-student of school facilities in the district or if there are fewer than five facilities
2.26 in the district, in the county where the district is located, provided that higher capital,
2.27 maintenance, and operational costs would be no more than five percent higher than the
2.28 district average per student if the school facility enrolled the average number of students.

2.29 (e) The community partner or partners and the school district have entered into a
2.30 lease under which the community partner or partners will lease a portion of the school
2.31 facility. The term of the lease must be no less than five years. The lease must include a
2.32 provision under which the community partner or partners will share general costs of
2.33 operating and maintaining the school facility such that the cost-per-student of operation
2.34 and maintenance is equivalent to the average cost-per-student of school facilities in the
2.35 district or if there is only one facility in the district, in the county in which the district
2.36 is located.

3.1 Subd. 5. **Appropriation requests.** For fiscal years subsequent to 2009, the
3.2 commissioner of education may seek appropriations for grants pursuant to this section
3.3 and sections 16A.10 and 16A.11.

3.4 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATIONS; COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROJECT**
3.5 **CAPITAL GRANTS.**

3.6 \$4,000,000 is appropriated in fiscal year 2008 from the general fund to the
3.7 commissioner of education for community partnership project capital grants. The
3.8 commissioner may award a grant to a school district for a qualifying community
3.9 partnership project once the district demonstrates to the commissioner's satisfaction that
3.10 the grant has been matched with at least an equal amount of money from nonstate sources.