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S.F. No. 1419 – Relief Grants and Safe Operation of Event Centers (As Amended by the A-1 Amendment)

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Section 1. Event center safe operation during the COVID-19 pandemic. Allows an event venue that hosts celebrations, receptions, private parties, or other social gatherings, such as weddings, funerals, life milestones, family reunions, and planned religious services to operate at 75 percent capacity if the business develops and implements a COVID-19 safety plan.

Section 2. Grants to event centers; appropriation. Subdivision 1. Appropriation. Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for event center relief grants.

Subdivision 2. Grants. Provides eligibility criteria for the event center grant awards including that the event center must:

- have a capacity of less than 1,500 but more than 200, and not be part of a hotel, restaurant, bar, university, or retail mall, or a publicly-owned facility and is primarily used as a music venue, a wedding venue, or for private parties and receptions;
- have experienced a sales decline of 30 percent or more;
- have been directly impacted by an executive order related to the COVID-19 pandemic;
- have a physical location in Minnesota and be owned by a Minnesota resident; and
- have no current tax liens with the state as of the time of the grant application.

Requires the commissioner of employment and economic development to make grants proportional to the size of the venue and consider how long the center has been closed due to the pandemic. Provides an unspecified grant limit amount. Prioritizes grants to event centers that did not receive a grant under Laws 2020, Seventh Special Session chapter 2.

Subdivision 3. Report to legislature. Requires the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature on the grants by August 1, 2021.