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S.F. No. 972 – Commerce Appropriations (1st Engrossment)

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Article 1 – Appropriations

Section 1 states that all appropriations in this article are from the general fund unless otherwise specified.

Section 2 contains the total appropriation for the DOC accounts funded by this bill by fund.

Subdivision 2 appropriates \$1,390,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for the financial institutions division. \$400,000 in each year is for a grant to Prepare and Prosper.

Subdivision 3 appropriates \$9,122,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$8,498,000 in fiscal year 2023 for administrative services. Includes money for IT system modernization and unclaimed property compliance. Includes \$5,000 each year for Real Estate Appraisal Advisory board per diem.

Subdivision 4 appropriates \$5,268,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$5,268,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund for enforcement activities. Also appropriates \$201,000 in each year from the workers' compensation fund for enforcement activities. Includes money for health care enforcement.

Subdivision 5 appropriates \$6,424,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$6,093,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund for insurance regulation. Also appropriates \$560,000 in each year from the workers compensation fund for insurance regulation. Includes money for health insurance rate review, actuarial work, National Conference of Insurance Legislators dues, and pharmacy benefit manager licensing and regulation.

Subdivision 6 appropriates \$105,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to evaluate legislation for new mandated health benefits under **section 62J.26, as amended by article 2 of this act**.

Subdivision 7 appropriates \$155,000 in fiscal year 2022 for the commissioner of commerce to prepare an application for continuance of the state innovation waiver.

Section 3 appropriates \$150,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the Department of Education for grants to the Minnesota Council on Economic Education on a onetime basis. Use of funding is specified.

Section 4 appropriates \$49,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the commissioner of MMB for consultation with the commissioner of commerce to evaluate health benefit mandate legislation.

Section 5 appropriates \$33,000 in each of fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to the commissioner of health for consultation with the commissioner of commerce to evaluate health benefit mandate legislation.

Section 6 requires the commissioner of MMB to transfer \$150,000,000 from the general fund in fiscal year 2024 to the premium security plan account.

Section 7 cancels \$1,220,000 from a general fund appropriation from 2019.

Article 2 – Mandated Health Benefit Proposals Evaluation

Section 1 (62J.03 subdivision 4) makes a technical correction to the definition of “commissioner” in **chapter 62J** to acknowledge that in some sections in **chapter 62J**, “commissioner” refers to the commissioner of commerce.

Section 2 (62J.26 subd. 1) includes a definition of “enrollee”; adds to the definition of what would be considered a mandated health benefit proposal for purposes of requiring an evaluation under this section; and makes other technical changes to the definition of a mandate health benefit proposal.

Section 3 (62J.26, subd. 2) Paragraph (a) makes modifications to this section requiring the commissioner of commerce to evaluate all mandated health benefit proposals.

Paragraph (b) modifies and expands the relevant information that must be considered when conducting the evaluation.

Paragraph (c) requires the commissioner to consider actuarial analysis done by health plan companies and any other opponents and proponents of the mandated health benefit proposal in determining the cost of the proposal.

Section 4 (62J.26, subd. 3) requires no later than August 1 of the year preceding the legislative session in which a legislator is planning on introducing a bill containing a mandated health benefit proposal or is planning on offering an amendment to a bill containing a mandate proposal, the author to notify the chair of one of the standing legislative committees that have jurisdiction over the subject matter of the proposal. The chair is then required to notify the commissioner of commerce that an evaluation of a mandated health benefit proposal is required to be completed. The commissioner is required to conduct an evaluation. If more than one evaluation is required by the commissioner, the commissioner must consult with the chairs to prioritize the required evaluations.

Section 5 (62J.26, subd. 4) states that the commissioner shall not use any other funds to conduct these evaluations other than the funds permitted under this section or specifically appropriated.

Section 6 (62J.26, subd. 5) specifies that the commissioner is required to submit a written report on the evaluation to the author of the proposal and to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over insurance policy and finance within 180 days of receiving notification from a chair that the evaluation is required.

Article 3 – Minnesota Premium Security Plan

Section 1 pushes back by one year to 2025 when remaining funds in the premium security account must be transferred to the commissioner of commerce.

Section 2 requires the commissioner of commerce to apply to the secretary of health and human services for a continuation of the state innovation waiver for the premium security plan. Requires MCHA to administer the plan through the 2023 benefit year if the waiver is granted.