

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

S.F. No. 2503

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DATE
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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Health and Human Services

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to health; creating a public awareness campaign on the health dangers of
1.3 using skin-lightening products containing mercury and hydroquinone; appropriating
1.4 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 145.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[145.9275] SKIN-LIGHTENING PRODUCTS PUBLIC AWARENESS**
1.7 **AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Grant program.** The commissioner of health shall award grants through
1.9 a request for proposal process to community-based organizations that serve ethnic
1.10 communities and focus on public health outreach to Black and people of color communities
1.11 on the issues of colorism, skin-lightening products, and chemical exposures from these
1.12 products. Priority in awarding grants shall be given to organizations that have historically
1.13 provided services to ethnic communities on the skin-lightening and chemical exposure issue
1.14 for the past four years.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Uses of grant funds.** Grant recipients must use grant funds awarded under this
1.16 section to conduct public awareness and education activities that are culturally specific and
1.17 community-based and that focus on:

1.18 (1) increasing public awareness and providing education on the health dangers associated
1.19 with using skin-lightening creams and products that contain mercury and hydroquinone and
1.20 are manufactured in other countries, brought into this country, and sold illegally online or
1.21 in stores; the dangers of exposure to mercury through dermal absorption, inhalation,
1.22 hand-to-mouth contact, and contact with individuals who have used these skin-lightening
1.23 products; the health effects of mercury poisoning, including the permanent effects on the

2.1 central nervous system and kidneys; and the dangers to mothers and infants of using these
2.2 products or being exposed to these products during pregnancy and while breastfeeding;

2.3 (2) identifying products that contain mercury and hydroquinone by testing skin-lightening
2.4 products;

2.5 (3) developing a train the trainer curriculum to increase community knowledge and
2.6 influence behavior changes by training community leaders, cultural brokers, community
2.7 health workers, and educators;

2.8 (4) continuing to build the self-esteem and overall wellness of young people who are
2.9 using skin-lightening products or are at risk of starting the practice of skin lightening; and

2.10 (5) building the capacity of community-based organizations to continue to combat
2.11 skin-lightening practices and chemical exposure.

2.12 **Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION; SKIN-LIGHTENING PRODUCTS PUBLIC**
2.13 **AWARENESS AND EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2.14 \$..... in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of
2.15 health for the skin-lightening products public awareness and education grant program under
2.16 Minnesota Statutes, section 145.9275.