

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION

S.F. No. 838

(SENATE AUTHORS: KIFFMEYER)

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to elections; establishing a voting equipment grant; providing grants to
 1.3 counties and municipalities for the purchase or lease of electronic roster systems;
 1.4 appropriating money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **VOTING EQUIPMENT GRANT.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Voting equipment grant account.** A voting equipment grant is
 1.8 established. Funds are appropriated to the secretary of state to provide grants to counties
 1.9 and municipalities as authorized by this section. Funds appropriated for the grant are available
 1.10 until expended.

1.11 Subd. 2. **Authorized equipment.** (a) A county or municipality may apply to receive a
 1.12 grant under this section to purchase or lease an electronic roster system that meets the
 1.13 technology requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 201.225, subdivision 2. A purchase
 1.14 or lease of equipment is eligible for a grant under this section if the purchase is made, or
 1.15 lease entered, on or after July 1, 2017. A county or municipality that purchased an electronic
 1.16 roster system before July 1, 2017, may apply for reimbursement.

1.17 (b) The grant funds must not be used for maintenance or repair of an electronic roster
 1.18 system.

1.19 Subd. 3. **Amount of grant.** A county or municipal government is eligible to receive a
 1.20 grant equal to no more than 50 percent of the total cost of the electronic roster system. The
 1.21 secretary of state must first award grants to counties and municipalities leasing or purchasing
 1.22 a new electronic roster system. If funds remain after awarding grants for new systems, the

2.1 secretary of state must use the remaining funds for grants to counties and municipalities
2.2 seeking reimbursement for electronic roster systems already purchased.

2.3 Subd. 4. **Application for grant; certification of costs.** (a) To receive a grant, a county
2.4 or municipality must submit an application to the secretary of state. The secretary of state
2.5 shall prescribe a form for this purpose. At a minimum, the application must describe:

2.6 (1) the expected total cost of the equipment and sources of funding that will be used for
2.7 the purchase or lease in addition to the grant funding provided by this section;

2.8 (2) the county's or municipality's plan to address the long-term maintenance, repair, and
2.9 eventual replacement costs for the equipment without using any funds from the grant for
2.10 these purposes; and

2.11 (3) any other information required by the secretary of state.

2.12 (b) The secretary of state must establish:

2.13 (1) a deadline for receipt of grant applications;

2.14 (2) a procedure for awarding and distributing grants;

2.15 (3) criteria for the fair, proportional distribution of grants if the funds do not completely
2.16 cover the requests for a particular type of equipment; and

2.17 (4) a process for verifying the proper use of the grants after distribution.

2.18 Subd. 5. **Report to legislature.** No later than January 15, 2018, and annually thereafter
2.19 until the appropriations provided for grants under this section have been exhausted, the
2.20 secretary of state must submit a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
2.21 elections policy on grants awarded by this section. The report must detail each grant awarded,
2.22 including the jurisdiction, the amount of the grant, and the type of equipment purchased.

2.23 Sec. 2. **VOTING EQUIPMENT GRANT ACCOUNT; APPROPRIATION.**

2.24 \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2018 is appropriated from the general fund to the secretary
2.25 of state for the voting equipment grant established by section 1. This is a onetime
2.26 appropriation.