

A bill for an act

relating to the judiciary; requiring a report to the legislature on community dispute resolution programs; altering requirements for community dispute resolution program grants and appropriating money for these grants; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections 494.01, subdivision 4; 494.05.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 494.01, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Reports.** The state court administrator shall compile statistical data regarding community dispute resolution programs, including the operation budget, the number of referrals, categories or types of cases referred, number of parties served, number of disputes resolved, nature of resolution, amount and type of awards, rate of compliance, returnees to the dispute resolution process, duration and estimated costs of proceedings, and any other pertinent information. By February 1 of each odd-numbered year, the state court administrator shall report to the legislature a summary of the data compiled under this subdivision.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 494.05, is amended to read:

494.05 GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Eligibility requirements.** A community dispute resolution program is not eligible for a grant under this section unless it:

(1) complies with this chapter and the guidelines and rules adopted under this chapter;

(2) is certified by the state court administrator under section 494.015, subdivision 2;

H.F. No. 1904, as introduced - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

(3) demonstrates that at least one-half of its annual budget will be derived from other sources ~~other than the state~~;

(4) documents evidence of support within its service area by community organizations, administrative agencies, and judicial and legal system representatives; and

(5) is exempt or has applied for exemption from federal taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 or is administered and funded by a city, county, or court system as a distinct, identifiable unit that has a separate and distinguishable operating budget.

Subd. 2. **Funding.** Grants under this section must be used for the costs of operating approved programs. A program is eligible to receive an amount of money equal to one-half of its estimated annual budget, but not more than ~~\$25,000~~ \$50,000 a year.

Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$290,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2008, and \$290,000 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009, are appropriated from the general fund to the state court administrator for grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 494.05, for new and existing programs.