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S.F. No. 5252 – Omnibus E-12 Finance Bill (as proposed to be amended by the A-4 delete everything amendment)

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ARTICLE 1 GENERAL EDUCATION

Section 1. Length of school year; hours of instruction. Makes a technical change to conform to a provision enacted in 2023 that eliminated funding disparities for kindergartners with a disability. Effective for the 2023-2024 school year and later.

Sec. 2. Area Learning Center Transportation Aid. Allows cooperative units to directly receive area learning center transportation aid. (Under current law, only school districts may directly receive these funds.) Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 3. School district EL revenue. Makes technical corrections. Strikes language recodified in a later section of the bill. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. English learner cross subsidy aid. Defines “qualifying English learner services” as the services necessary to implement the Language Instruction Education Program for English learners. Recodifies the English learner cross subsidy aid program stricken from a previous section of the bill. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 5. Money appropriated [for unemployment benefits aid program]. Modifies the payment schedule for the school unemployment aid from the account in the special revenue fund. Proposes to pay 90 percent of the aid in the current fiscal year and 10 percent in the next fiscal year on a schedule determined by the commissioner. Effective for fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 6. Learning year pupil units. Makes technical changes to conform to a provision enacted in 2023 that eliminated funding disparities for kindergartners with a disability. Effective for the 2023-2024 school year and later.

Sec. 7. Local optional revenue. Increases equalization aid in fiscal year 2025 in the local optional revenue program, reducing the local optional levy to offset other statewide increases in market value levies attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats authorized under this bill. Effective for fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 8. Compensatory education revenue. Modifies the compensatory education revenue program to continue including the amount of a district's 2017 compensatory revenue pilot grant in the district's compensatory revenue for fiscal year 2026 and later. Extends the statewide compensatory revenue hold harmless beyond fiscal year 2027. Strikes language recodified in a later section of the bill. Strikes other redundant language. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 9. Definitions [applicable to the compensatory revenue program]. Recodifies language stricken from a previous section of the bill. Makes other technical changes. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 10. Statewide compensatory allowance. Strikes duplicative and conflicting language. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 11. Operating capital levy. Clarifies that the portion of operating capital revenue for menstrual products and opiate antagonists is paid in state aid. Increases equalization aid in fiscal year 2025 in the operating capital revenue program, reducing the operating capital levy to offset other statewide increases in net tax capacity levies attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats authorized under this bill. Effective for fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 12. Pupil transportation adjustment. Includes a district's area learning center transportation aid in the calculation of the pupil transportation adjustment. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 13. School endowment fund; apportionment. Provides that American Indian schools are included in the apportionment of the interest and dividends from the permanent school fund. (Under current Minnesota Statutes, only school districts and charter schools are eligible to receive apportioned interest and dividends.) Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 14. General education aid. Increases the general education aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 15. One-room schoolhouse. Modifies an existing funding stream to the Warroad School District to operate the Angle Inlet School. Changes the annual funding from a grant to an aid to reduce administrative burdens on the school district and the department. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 16. Windom School District onetime supplemental aid. Cancels a portion of the Laws 2023 appropriation for onetime supplemental aid to Windom School District. (The final aid amount has already been calculated and paid to the district.) Effective immediately.

Sec. 17. Basic Skills Revenue Account Transfers. Authorizes a school district to transfer certain basic skills revenue funds held in a restricted fund balance into another restricted fund balance for use consistent with current statutory program requirements. Effective immediately.

ARTICLE 2 EDUCATION EXCELLENCE

Section 1. Paraprofessional training. Clarifies that the entities eligible for the paraprofessional training reimbursement are also required to provide the required hours of training. Provides a definition of compensation to mean an hourly wage, taxes, and employer-paid pension contributions. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 2. Approval process [for P-TECH schools]. Strikes obsolete language. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. P-TECH implementation grants: support; start-up; and mentoring grants. Modifies the P-TECH grant program. Authorizes P-TECH schools to partner with schools in other districts. For fiscal year 2026 and later, limits the amount of a P-TECH support grant to no more than \$500,000 per year. Limits the amount of a start-up grant or a mentoring and technical assistance grant to no more than \$50,000. Authorizes administrative costs. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. Program approval [for an adults with disabilities program]. Modifies the program approval requirements for a school district's adults with disabilities program. Removes certain application information. Requires a district to include certain information about the program in the district's annual community education report. Effective July 1, 2024, for plans developed on or after that date.

Sec. 5. Carry forward of [American Indian education aid] funds. Extends the availability of any unspent funds carried forward from a previous fiscal year. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 6. Establishment and membership [of the Minnesota Youth Council]. Clarifies that a member of the Minnesota Youth Council must be in grades 8 through 12. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 7. Emergency medical training [grants]. Provides for a grant in fiscal year 2025 to the St. Cloud School District for an emergency medical services education facility. Increases the fiscal year 2025 appropriation. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 8. Achievement and integration aid. Increases the achievement and integration aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 9. Ethnic studies school grants. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation for the ethnic studies school grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 10. Full-service community schools [grants]. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation for the full-service community schools grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 11. Minnesota Council on Economic Education [grant]. Aligns the distribution timeline for the grant to the Minnesota Council on Economic Education to align with standard Office of Grant

Management policies related to reimbursement, budgets, and progress monitoring. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 12. Nonexclusionary discipline [grants]. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 nonexclusionary discipline grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 13. P-TECH schools. Cancels the previous fiscal year 2025 appropriation for P-TECH schools. (The money is reappropriated in a later section of the bill.) Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation. Provides an amount for administrative costs. Effective immediately.

Sec. 14. Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Advisory Council. Establishes the Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Advisory Council and provides for its membership and duties. Requires the advisory council to make a report to the legislature. Provides that meetings of the advisory council are subject to the open meeting law. Effective immediately.

Sec. 15. Appropriations. Appropriates money from the general fund for various grants, including civic education grants; a grant to the Dyslexia Institute of Minnesota; a grant to the Girl Scouts River Valleys; P-TECH grants; a grant to the Minnesota Alliance with Youth; a grant to 826 MSP; and a grant for a student connections pilot program. Requires certain reporting. Appropriates money for the administrative costs of the Digital Citizenship, Internet Safety, and Media Literacy Advisory Council. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 3 READ ACT

Section 1. Department of Education [Read Act implementation]. Requires the department to partner with the Center for Applied Research and Educational Improvement (CAREI) to approve at least 15 literacy intervention models by November 1, 2025; coach and support certified trained facilitators; and collaborate with publishers to update curriculum and intervention materials to be culturally responsive and reflect students with disabilities. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. [Read Act implementation partnership]. Requires the department's list of identified evidence-based literacy curricula to only include curricula that use culturally and linguistically responsive materials (Under current law, curricula are required be culturally and linguistically responsive to the extent practicable). Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Reconsideration [of Read Act curriculum or professional development programs]. Clarifies that the reconsideration process is only available for curriculum and professional development programs. Requires the department and CAREI to complete a final curriculum review by March 3, 2025, to review curriculum available to districts at no cost. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. Literacy Incentive Aid Uses. Makes clarifying changes. Modifies the list of allowed uses to include employing an intervention specialist and providing stipends to teachers for completing training required under section 120B.12. Effective for revenue in fiscal years 2025 and later.

Sec. 5. Read Act literacy aid. Modifies a Laws 2023 appropriation for Read Act reimbursements to instead be paid as a state aid. Provides a per-pupil aid amount based on the enrollment of each school district, charter school, and cooperative unit providing direct instructional services. Requires that the aid be reserved for literacy interventions authorized under the Read Act or for activities

authorized under the literacy incentive aid program. Modifies the availability and payment schedule for the fiscal year 2024 appropriation. Effective immediately.

Sec. 6. Read Act professional development appropriation. Appropriates money from the general fund for statewide training. Modifies the appropriation uses to require the department to develop a data collection system capable of collecting and analyzing local literacy plans and screening data. Allows funding to be used for providing training in structured literacy to fourth and fifth grade classroom teachers. Effective immediately.

Sec. 7. PELSB reading audit. Requires the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) to evaluate whether and how approved teacher training programs in certain teacher licensure areas meet the subject matter standards for reading. Requires an initial report to the legislature by January 15, 2025, and a final report by August 1, 2026. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 8. Read Act deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing working group. Establishes a working group to make recommendations on literacy training, screeners, and curriculum for students who are deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing. Provides for membership and duties. Requires a report to the legislature by January 15, 2025. Makes members eligible for per diem compensation. Provides an expiration date for the working group. Effective immediately.

Sec. 9. Appropriations. Appropriates money in fiscal year 2025 for purposes related to the Read Act including substitute teacher and teacher stipend reimbursements; costs of the deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing working group; contract costs to develop supplemental culturally responsive materials; and structured literacy instruction training for paraprofessionals. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 4 TEACHERS

Section 1. Rulemaking [and assessment for paraprofessional credential]. Requires the commissioner to establish qualifying scores for paraprofessional assessments that result in first-time passage rates for individuals in all racial and ethnic groups of at least 95%. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Basic alternative teacher compensation aid. Increases the basic alternative teacher compensation (Q-Comp) aid limit in fiscal year 2025 to account for additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective for fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 3. [Alternative teacher compensation] revenue reserved. Requires alternative teacher compensation revenue to be reserved in a restricted fund and used only for allowable purposes under the program. Effective for fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 4. Grow Your Own district programs. Makes tribal contract schools eligible for grants under the Grow Your Own program. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 5. [Grow Your Own] grants for programs serving secondary school students. Makes Tribal contract schools eligible for grants under the program. Allows the program to fund scholarships for students at postsecondary institutions that have articulated transfer pathways with a board-approved teacher preparation program. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 6. [Grow Your Own] grant procedure. Authorizes the commissioner to allow existing grantees to optionally revise their grant agreements to be consistent with current statutory program requirements. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 7. [Special education teacher pipeline] grant program established. Makes Tribal contract schools eligible for grants under the program. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 8. [Special education teacher pipeline] grant uses. Expands the allowable uses of the grant to include any participant employed by the grantee or community members affiliated with the grantee. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 9. [Special education teacher pipeline] grant procedure. Authorizes the commissioner to allow existing grantees to optionally revise their grant agreements to be consistent with current statutory program requirements. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 10. Paid leave for school closures. Provides that a school district or charter school that alters its calendar due to a weather event, public health emergency, or any other circumstance, pay full wages and benefits to all school employees for their scheduled work hours if the district or charter school counts that day as an instructional day for any students in the district or charter school. Clarifies other remote work authority and e-learning day pay arrangements. Effective for the 2024-2025 school year and later.

Sec. 11. [Student support personnel aid] definitions. Expands the definition of “student support services personnel” to include certain individuals working to reduce chronic student absenteeism. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2025 and later.

Sec. 12. Purpose [of student support personnel aid]. Clarifies that the purposes of student support personnel aid include improving student attendance. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 13. Student support personnel aid. Requires school districts and charter schools to reserve student support personnel aid in a restricted fund balance. Authorizes a district to carry unspent aid forward for use in subsequent fiscal years subject to certain reserve balance limits. Effective for fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 14. Alternative teacher compensation aid. Increases the alternative teacher compensation aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 15. Closing educational opportunity gaps grants. Extends the availability of the FY 2024 appropriation for the grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 16. Statewide teacher mentoring program. Expands the allowable uses of mentoring program grant funds to include mentorships for Tier 2 licensed special education teachers. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 17. Student support personnel workforce pipeline. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation for the grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 18. Teacher residency program. Makes a technical change relating to the availability of the appropriation from one year to the next. Effective immediately.

Sec. 19. Collaborative urban and greater Minnesota educators of color grants. Increases the fiscal year 2025 appropriation for the grant program. Makes a technical change relating to the availability of the appropriation from one year to the next. Effective immediately.

Sec. 20. Mentoring, induction, and retention incentive program grants for teachers of color. Increases the fiscal year 2025 appropriation for the grant program. Makes a technical change relating to the availability of the appropriation from one year to the next. Effective immediately.

Sec. 21. Pathway preparation grants. Modifies eligibility for pathway preparation grants to include teachers holding Tier 1 or 2 licenses and seeking a Tier 3 or 4 license. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 22. Teacher and Paraprofessional Compensation Working Group. Establishes the Teacher and Paraprofessional Compensation Working Group and provides for its membership and duties. Requires the working group to make a report to the legislature. Effective immediately.

Sec. 23. Appropriations. Appropriates money from the general fund to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board for administrative costs of the Teacher and Paraprofessional Compensation Working Group. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 5 CHARTER SCHOOLS

Section 1. Leased space. Clarifies that the commissioner approves or disapproves applications to receive lease aid, not the leases themselves. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Building lease aid. Authorizes the commissioner to establish additional criteria and rubrics to evaluate components of individual charter school building leases. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Charter school building lease aid. Increases the building lease aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. Appropriations. Appropriates money from the general fund for onetime safe schools supplemental aid for charter schools. Provides that the aid is paid in fiscal year 2025 in proportion to each charter school's fall 2024 enrollment count. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 6 SPECIAL EDUCATION

Sec. 1. Special education; regular. Increases the special education aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Appropriations. Appropriates money from the general fund for special education apprenticeship program grants. Directs the commissioner to award grants to each of the four intermediate school districts. Provides for eligible uses of the grant funds. Authorizes administrative costs. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 7 HEALTH AND SAFETY

Section 1. Required standard. Adds health as a required statewide academic standard for student learning, instead of a locally adopted standard. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Required academic standards. Strikes reference to locally developed health academic standards. States that locally developed health academic standards apply until the end of the 2025-2026 school year or until the commissioner adopts rules, whichever occurs later. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Standards development. Adds health to the statewide standards developed by the commissioner of education. Requires the commissioner to consider advice from current students and the Minnesota Youth Council in developing statewide standards. Effective immediately.

Sec. 4. Rulemaking. Directs the commissioner to adopt statewide rules for implementing statewide standards in health. Effective immediately.

Sec. 5. Revisions and review required. Adds health education standards to the standards revision and review cycle. Directs the commissioner to review the health education standards beginning in the 2034-2035 school year and every ten years thereafter. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 6. Graduation requirements. Adds a high school graduation requirement of credits sufficient to satisfy the state health standards once the implementation rules for health standards are adopted. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 7. Crisis management policy. Requires the commissioner to make available a model cardiac emergency response plan. Requires districts and charter schools to conduct one cardiac emergency response drill annually. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 8. School safety drills. Requires nonpublic schools and certain other education institutions to conduct one cardiac emergency response drill annually. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 9. Cardiac emergency response plan. Provides for the required components of a cardiac emergency response plan. Beginning in the 2025-2026 school year, requires a school district or charter school to develop a response plan. Requires that the plan be available and distributed among certain stakeholders. Requires that certain emergency equipment be available for use within close proximity of school-sponsored events. Requires certain training. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 10. Health education standards. (a) Directs the commissioner to begin the rulemaking process to adopt statewide academic standards in health education. Directs the commissioner to consult with the commissioners of health and human services in developing the proposed rules.

(b) The rules must include the following expectations for learning: mental health education; cardiopulmonary resuscitation and automatic defibrillator education; vaping awareness and prevention education; cannabis use and substance use education; and sexually transmitted infections and diseases education.

(c) The rules must include the following optional expectations for learning: child sexual abuse prevention education; violence prevention education; character development education; and safe and supportive schools education.

Effective immediately.

Sec. 11. Appropriations. Appropriates money from the general fund to pay the costs of health standards rulemaking and to reimburse schools for costs related to cardiac emergency response plan activities and equipment. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 8 FACILITIES

Section 1. Review and comment. Modifies the projects that are exempt from review and comment by the commissioner of education to include new construction, expansion, or remodeling of an educational facility. This section also clarifies that the review and comment requirement does not begin until the school district makes a final decision to enter into a contract or agreement. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Publication. Extends, from 60 days before a referendum to 88 days before a referendum, the requirement that a school board publish a summary of the commissioner of education’s review and comments. Where no such referendum is required, the publication and public meeting requirements do not apply. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Lease purchase; installment buys. Clarifies that the review and comment requirements apply to projects that require an expenditure in excess of \$500,000 per school site if the school district has a capital loan outstanding, or \$2,000,000 per school site if the school district does not have a capital loan outstanding. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. Grants for gender-neutral single-user restrooms. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation for the grants for gender-neutral single-user restrooms. Effective immediately.

Sec. 5. Long-term facilities maintenance equalized aid. Increases the aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 9 NUTRITION AND LIBRARIES

Section 1. School food service fund. Authorizes a school food service program to record the costs of lunchroom furniture in the food service fund if a surplus exists in the food service fund for three successive fiscal years. Ordinarily, the costs of lunchroom furniture must be recognized in the school’s general fund. Defines “lunchroom furniture” to mean tables and chairs regularly used by pupils in a lunchroom from which they may consume milk, meals, or snacks in connection with school or community service activities. Effective for revenue in fiscal year 2024 and later.

Sec. 2. State school librarian. Requires the Department of Education to employ a state school librarian within the State Library Services Division of the department. Requires that the state school librarian must be or have been previously licensed as a school library media specialist. Provides for

certain statutory duties of the state school librarian. (State Library Services is a division of the Department of Education and provides services to all types of libraries throughout the state.) Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Report. Requires the commissioner to annually report to the legislature on how school districts and charter schools use school library aid. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. School lunch. Increases the school lunch aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 5. School breakfast. Increases the school breakfast aid appropriation in fiscal year 2025 to pay the state aid costs attributable to additional voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) seats. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 6. Revisor instruction. Recodifies the school library aid program into chapter 124D. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 10 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Section 1. Application process; priority for high poverty schools. Directs the commissioner to divide applications for new or expanded voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) or school readiness plus (SRP) programs into five groups: (1) Minneapolis school district, (2) Saint Paul school district, (3) other metropolitan school districts, (4) greater Minnesota school districts, and (5) charter schools. (Under current law, applications from the Minneapolis and Saint Paul school districts are pooled together in the same group.) Strikes language relating to the allocation of seats that is modified and recodified in a later section. Strikes other obsolete language. Effective immediately.

Sec. 2. Participation limit allocation. Recodifies language relating to allocation of voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) seats. Requires that, for the 2024-2025 school year, each site must be allocated the same number of seats as the site was allocated in fiscal year 2024. Directs the commissioner to allocate any remaining seats among the five groups in proportion to each group's share of the statewide kindergarten enrollment and, within each group, to individual sites in priority order. Effective immediately.

Sec. 3. Participation limits. Increases the number of voluntary prekindergarten (VPK) and school readiness plus (SRP) seats from 7,160 to 12,360 for fiscal year 2025 (an increase of 5,200 seats for that fiscal year). Makes a conforming change related to the recodification of the participation limit allocation in an earlier section of the bill. Effective immediately.

Sec. 4. School-age care programs. Authorizes a school district school-age care program to provide services to prekindergarten students enrolled in the district. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 5. Head Start programs. Beginning in fiscal year 2025, provides up to 2 percent of the Head Start state appropriation for administrative costs. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 6. Early childhood curriculum grants. Extends the availability of the fiscal year 2024 appropriation for the grants. Effective immediately.

Sec. 7. Direction to the commissioner of education; adjusting voluntary prekindergarten participation limits. Directs the commissioner to retroactively adjust the prekindergarten seat allocation established for fiscal year 2025 to assign the additional seats authorized earlier in this bill. Effective immediately.

Sec. 8. Repealer. Repeals the \$50 million reserved for additional prekindergarten seats in the 2024-2025 school year under Laws 2023 and returns that amount to the state general fund. Effective July 1, 2024.

ARTICLE 11 STATE AGENCIES

Section 1. Department [of Education]. Reduces the amount previously appropriated for fiscal year 2025 for unemployment aid administration. Appropriates money in fiscal year 2025 for the state school librarian. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 2. Permanent school fund; distribution of endowment fund earnings task force. Establishes a task force to examine the distribution of earnings from the permanent school fund and provides for its members and duties. Requires the task force to make a report to the legislature. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 3. Appropriation. Appropriates money from the general fund for the administrative costs of the permanent school fund task force. Effective July 1, 2024.

Sec. 4. Appropriation. Appropriates money from the general fund to the Professional Educator Licensing and Standards Board (PELSB) for information technology costs related to an online licensing system. Effective July 1, 2024.