

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to microgrids; providing a grant; appropriating money.

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

1.4 Section 1. **MICROGRID RESEARCH AND APPLICATION; GRANT;**
1.5 **APPROPRIATION.**

1.6 (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j),
1.7 \$5,400,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the renewable development account
1.8 established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of
1.9 commerce for transfer to the University of St. Thomas Center for Microgrid Research for
1.10 the purposes of:

1.11 (1) increasing the center's capacity to provide industry partners opportunities to test
1.12 near-commercial microgrid products on a real-world scale and to multiply opportunities for
1.13 innovative research;

1.14 (2) procuring advanced equipment and controls to enable the extension of the university's
1.15 microgrid to additional buildings; and

1.16 (3) expanding hands-on educational opportunities to better understand the operations of
1.17 microgrids to undergraduate and graduate electrical engineering students and partnerships
1.18 with community colleges.

1.19 (b) This is a onetime appropriation.

1.20 (c) For the purposes of this section, "microgrid" means an electrical network providing
1.21 power to a discrete geographical area that:

- 2.1 (1) generates electricity from local distributed energy resources;
- 2.2 (2) can be disconnected from the regional grid and operated independently; and
- 2.3 (3) is centrally operated by a highly sophisticated network of software and controls that
- 2.4 manages energy supply, demand, and storage.
- 2.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.