.... moves to amend H.F. No. 1256 as follows:

Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

"Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 11. **Minnesota efficient technology accelerator.** (a) A nonprofit organization with at least 25 years of experience implementing energy efficiency programs in Minnesota and conducting efficient technology research in the state may file a proposal with the commissioner of commerce for a program to accelerate deployment and reduce the cost of emerging and innovative efficient technologies and approaches and lead to lower energy costs for Minnesota consumers. Activities of the accelerator shall include strategic initiatives with technology manufacturers to improve the efficiency and performance of their products, as well as with equipment installers and other key actors in the technology supply chain. Benefits of activities expected from the accelerator include cost effective energy savings for Minnesota utilities, bill savings for Minnesota utility consumers, enhanced employment opportunities in the state, and avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions.

(b) Prior to developing and filing a proposal, the nonprofit must submit to the commissioner of commerce a notice of intent to file a proposal under this subdivision, describing the eligibility and qualifications of the nonprofit to file a proposal under this subdivision. The commissioner shall review the notice of intent and issue a determination of eligibility within 30 days if the commissioner finds that the nonprofit meets the qualifications required.

(c) Upon receiving the determination by the commissioner under paragraph (b), the nonprofit organization must engage with interested stakeholders on at least the following attributes required of a program proposal under this subdivision:

(1) a proposed budget and operational guidelines for the accelerator;

(2) a proposed energy savings attribution, evaluation, and allocation methodology that includes a method for calculating net benefits from activities under the program. Energy savings and net benefits from activities under the program must be allocated to participating utilities and be considered when determining cost-effectiveness of achieved energy savings and related incentives;

(3) a process for identifying and selecting technologies that benefit electric and natural gas utility customers in proportion to the funds each utility sector contributes to the program and addresses residential, commercial, and industrial building energy use; and

(4) a process for identifying and tracking performance metrics for each technology selected against which progress can be measured, including one or more methods for evaluating cost-effectiveness.

(d) No earlier than 180 days from the date of the commissioner eligibility determination under paragraph (b), the nonprofit may file a program proposal under this subdivision. The filing must describe how the proposal addresses each of the required attributes listed in paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (4), and how the proposal addresses the recommendations and concerns identified in the stakeholder engagement process required under paragraph (c). Within 90 days of the filing of the proposal, the commissioner shall approve, modify, or reject a proposal under this subdivision after notice and comment by interested stakeholders and must consider the expected costs and benefits of the program from the perspectives of ratepayers, the participating utilities, and society. The program term may be up to five years and the commissioner may renew the program for up to five years at a time.

(e) Upon approval, each public utility with over 30,000 customers shall participate in the program and contribute to the approved budget of the program in proportion to its gross operating revenue from sales of gas or electric service in the state, excluding revenues from large customer facilities exempted under subdivision 1a. No participating utility may be required to contribute more than the following percentages of the utility's spending approved by the commission in the plan filed under subdivision 2: (1) two percent in the program's initial two years; (2) 3.5 percent in the program's third and fourth years; and (3) five percent thereafter. A participating utility may request the commissioner to adjust its approved annual budget under subdivision 2, if necessary to meet approved energy savings goals under that subdivision. Other utilities may elect to participate in the accelerator program. Costs incurred by a public utility under this subdivision are recoverable under subdivision 2b as an assessment to the energy and conservation account. Amounts provided to the account under this subdivision are not subject to the cap on assessments in section 216B.62. The commissioner may make expenditures from the account for the purposes of this subdivision, including amounts necessary to cover administrative costs incurred by the department under this subdivision. Costs for research projects under this subdivision that the commissioner determines may be duplicative to projects that would be eligible for funding under subdivision 1e, paragraph (a), may be deducted from the assessment under subdivision 1e for utilities participating in the accelerator.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective immediately upon enactment."