

Subject Upgrading Electric Panels

Authors Hollins

Analyst Bob Eleff

Date March 21, 2022

## Overview

House File 3897, as amended by the H3897DE1 amendment, establishes a program in the Department of Commerce to award grants to owners of single-family homes and multifamily buildings to pay for costs to increase the capacity of electric panels in those dwellings.

## Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	<b>[216C.45] Residential electric panel upgrade grants; pilot program.</b>
---	--

**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms, including “electric panel,” “upgrade,” and “income-eligible.”

For a single-family home, “upgrade” means increasing the rating of the electric panel to 200 amperes, repairing or replacing related wiring, and may include wiring and conduit to enable the operation of solar energy generating systems and electric vehicle chargers. This definition is the same for multifamily buildings, except that capacity is upgraded to allow for full electrification of the building, as defined in the National Electric Code.

**Subd. 2. Program establishment.** Establishes an electric panel upgrade grant pilot program in the Department of Commerce.

**Subd. 3. Application process.** Requires the commissioner to establish procedures for determining eligibility, reviewing applications, and awarding grants.

**Subd. 4. Eligibility.** Provides that in Phase I of the program, recipients must be income-eligible in order to receive a grant. For a single-family residence, that means a household whose income is at or below 60 percent of the state median, or one that received assistance from the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. For a multifamily building to be income-eligible, 66 percent or more of the units must be occupied by households whose income is 60

**Section** **Description**

---

percent or less than the state median. In Phase II of the program, income-eligibility is not a requirement.

**Subd. 5. Grant awards.** Provides that grants are awarded to building owners, or contractors or third parties who have permission from building owners to receive a grant.

**Subd. 6. Grant amount.** Sets maximum grant amounts. For a single-family residence, the maximum is \$10,000 for income-eligible households, and \$1,000 for non-income eligible households. For multifamily buildings that are income-eligible, the grant is \$9,500 plus \$500 per unit that receives an upgrade, up to a maximum of \$50,000 per building. The grant amount for a building that is not income-eligible is \$1,000 plus \$500 for each upgraded unit, up to a maximum of \$10,000 per building.

**Subd. 7. Limitation.** Prohibits the issuance of more than one grant to a single building.

**Subd. 8. Outreach.** Requires the department to publicize the availability of electric panel upgrade grants to income-eligible households, organizations that provide energy services to such households, and to multifamily building owners and property managers.

**Subd. 9. Report.** Requires the department to submit reports to the legislature at the end of each of Phases I and II summarizing program outcomes.

**2 Appropriation.**

Appropriates \$..... in fiscal year 2023 from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to operate the program. This is a onetime appropriation.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155