

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; establishing a task force to analyze options for increasing the
1.3 provision of weatherization services to low-income households; appropriating
1.4 money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **TASK FORCE ON EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF**
1.7 **WEATHERIZATION SERVICES; ESTABLISHMENT.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.9 the meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce.

1.11 (c) "Weatherization Assistance Program" means the federal program described in Code
1.12 of Federal Regulations, title 10, part 440 et seq., designed to assist low-income households
1.13 to cost-effectively reduce energy use.

1.14 (d) "Weatherization service providers" means the network of contracted entities that
1.15 administer the Weatherization Assistance Program.

1.16 (e) "Weatherization assistance services" means the energy conservation measures installed
1.17 in households under the Weatherization Assistance Program.

1.18 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** A task force is established to explore ways to expand existing
1.19 funding sources and identify potential new funding sources in order to increase the number
1.20 of low-income Minnesota households served or the scope of services provided by the
1.21 Weatherization Assistance Program.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Membership.** (a) No later than August 1, 2021, the commissioner shall appoint
2.2 members to the task force representing the following stakeholders:

2.3 (1) a statewide association representing Weatherization Assistance Program providers;

2.4 (2) individual Weatherization Assistance Program service providers;

2.5 (3) investor-owned utilities;

2.6 (4) electric cooperatives and municipal utilities;

2.7 (5) low-income energy advocates;

2.8 (6) tribal nations; and

2.9 (7) delivered fuel dealers.

2.10 (b) Task force members shall serve without compensation.

2.11 (c) The commissioner shall fill task force vacancies to maintain the representation
2.12 required under paragraph (a).

2.13 Subd. 4. **Meetings; officers.** (a) The commissioner shall convene the first meeting of
2.14 the task force no later than August 15, 2021, and shall provide physical or virtual meeting
2.15 space as necessary for the task force to conduct its work.

2.16 (b) At its first meeting, the task force shall elect a chair and vice-chair from among its
2.17 members and may elect other officers as necessary.

2.18 (c) The task force shall meet according to a schedule it determines, and may also meet
2.19 at the call of the chair. The task force shall meet as often as necessary to accomplish the
2.20 duties listed under subdivision 5.

2.21 (d) Meetings of the task force are subject to the open meeting provisions of Minnesota
2.22 Statutes, chapter 13D.

2.23 Subd. 5. **Duties.** The task force shall undertake the following activities:

2.24 (1) develop a strategy to reduce, each year, a targeted number of eligible households
2.25 denied weatherization services due to unaddressed health, environmental, or structural
2.26 hazards in the home;

2.27 (2) explore new sources of funding in order to increase the number of households
2.28 receiving weatherization assistance services;

2.29 (3) analyze existing program models in other states that offer services that complement
2.30 the Weatherization Assistance Program;

3.1 (4) analyze the current distribution of weatherization services across ethnic groups,
3.2 among different regions of the state, in urban, suburban, and rural areas, and with respect
3.3 to other demographic factors in order to determine how to distribute weatherization services
3.4 more equitably throughout the state;

3.5 (5) discuss how additional funding would impact the ability of weatherization assistance
3.6 service providers to provide weatherization assistance services to more eligible households;

3.7 (6) identify services that a supplemental funding program could provide to address
3.8 necessary repairs to homes that the federal Weatherization Assistance Program requires to
3.9 be done before weatherization assistance can be provided, but which cannot be funded with
3.10 federal Weatherization Assistance Program funds; and

3.11 (7) examine other related issues the task force deems relevant.

3.12 Subd. 6. **Administrative support.** The commissioner shall provide administrative
3.13 support and meeting space for the task force.

3.14 Subd. 7. **Report.** No later than February 1, 2022, the task force must submit a report on
3.15 its findings and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate
3.16 and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy, including
3.17 recommendations for legislation to supplement funding for the Weatherization Assistance
3.18 Program.

3.19 Subd. 8. **Expiration.** This section expires April 15, 2022.

3.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.

3.21 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.22 \$..... in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of
3.23 commerce to implement the task force on expanding weatherization assistance services
3.24 established under section 1. Any unexpended funds cancel to the general fund at the end of
3.25 the fiscal year. This is a onetime appropriation.

3.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021.