

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Small business growth acceleration

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Overview

This bill establishes a new funding program for small manufacturers or manufacturing-related service companies to encourage business improvements and implementation of technology. \$1 million per year is appropriated to Minnesota Technology, Inc. to administer the program, award funds and report to the legislature.

Section

1 Small business growth acceleration program. Creates a new program administered by Minnesota Technology, Inc. to assist businesses with gap financing for technology and other improvements.

To be eligible a business must:

- be a manufacturer or in manufacturing-related services with 100 or fewer employees; and
- apply as required with a plan for technology and business improvement;

Minnesota Technology provides project funding, through a written agreement, to accelerate improvements if it determines that the improvements would not be done without an award. Funding is limited to half of the project costs or a maximum of \$25,000 per project per year. A single company is limited to \$50,000 in a calendar year. Program funds must only be

Section

used for services and products to enhance business operations.

Minnesota Technology must report annually to the legislature on the award of funds, the estimated and actual impact of the funds awarded.

- 2** **Appropriation.** Makes a \$1 million per year general fund appropriation to Minnesota Technology, Inc. for the small business growth acceleration program.