

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This is the Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) policy bill, making changes to the contaminated site cleanup and development grant program, redevelopment grant program, the trade office and vocational rehabilitation provisions.

Section

- 1 Grant account; contaminated site cleanup and development.** Allows money in this account to be available until spent, regardless of the source of the money. Current law limits the availability to four years.
- 2 Qualifying site; contamination cleanup development grant.** Eliminates criteria related to the value of the site relative to the estimated cleanup costs. A relative cost factor is added to the priorities for these grants under section 3.
- 3 Priorities; contamination cleanup development grant.** Includes a measure of cleanup costs relative to current market value in one of the factors the commissioner must consider in making grants when applications exceed funds available.
- 4 Commissioner discretion; redevelopment grant.** Eliminates the requirement that grants in the metro area are made only if the commissioner determines that Greater Minnesota grants are less than the available funds.
- 5 Priorities; redevelopment grant.** Authorizes the commissioner to consider factors other than the five characteristics listed in current law, including the net return of public benefits. Grants must be distributed within and outside the metropolitan area. Twenty-five percent or more of the funds for grants must be for sites outside the metropolitan area, unless

Section

applications from Greater Minnesota account for less than 25 percent of the funds.

- 6** **Generally; Minnesota trade office.** Provides that the office must serve as Minnesota's office of protocol for visits by representatives of foreign governments and as a liaison to the foreign diplomatic corps in the state.
- 7** **Supported employment.** Adds to the definition, under vocational rehabilitation, that employment is considered supported if it occurs at a facility that has been certified by the commissioner of DEED as integrated. See requirements in section 10.
- 8** **Affirmative business enterprise employment.** Defines these terms for the purposes of vocational rehabilitation as being employment with paid work at a facility certified by the commissioner of DEED. This is also considered community employment for funding under Minnesota rules if wages paid are equal to or above the employer's usual wage rate and all employees have the same benefit package.
- 9** **Appointment; membership; rehabilitation facility board.** Reduces the number of voting members on the local board to seven members from nine. Eliminates the requirements for representation on the board from specific groups. The board is established by the local government or nonprofit and is necessary to receive assistance as a rehabilitation facility.
- 10** **Integrated setting.** Authorizes the commissioner to certify, after a site review, paid work at a rehabilitation setting as an integrated setting.
- 11** **Repealer.** Repeals section 16C.18, subdivision 2, DEED report on small and targeted business procurement.