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Bill Summary =

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Overview

Section

- **Definitions.** Adds increased use of "green chemistry" to the products, processes, methods, technologies or services that are the intended goals of green economic activity.
- **Purpose.** Broadens the scope of the Minnesota Investment Fund to provide technical assistance in addition to financial assistance.
- 3 Eligible expenditures. Allows funds to be used to provide private entrepreneurs with training, other technical assistance, and financial assistance similar to that provided through the small cities development block grant program.
- 4 Eligible projects. Expands eligibility to projects supporting the development of microenterprises (defined in federal law) through financial assistance, technical assistance, and advice or business services.
- Definitions. Defines and adds veteran-owned small businesses to the category of businesses eligible for an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000. Under current law these loans are available for economic injury to a business for the loss of essential employees called to active military service.
- Purpose; duties. Expands the responsibilities of the Governor's Workforce Development Council to include providing recommendations made to the governor to the legislature and commissioner of DEED as well. Also charges the council with working in consultation with local workforce councils and DEED to identify and address gaps in local workforce services. This reflects a recommendation contained in a recent report released by the Legislative Auditor.
- 7 Staffing. Directs DEED to provide staff, including professional, technical and clerical to

the Minnesota Workforce Development Council.

- Funding. Directs the commissioner of DEED to develop recommendations for a funding formula that allocates Workforce Investment Act (WIA) funds to the council; specifies a minimum yearly allocation of \$350,000. The commissioner must report the formula recommendations by January 15, 2011.
- Workforce program outcomes. Directs the commissioner of DEED to develop and implement a standard set of ways to assess the outcomes of workforce programs including comparisons of outcomes for workforce program participants and non-participants. The department is also directed to monitor programs receiving legislative appropriations on a pass through basis and develop means of assessing recipients for the costs associated with monitoring. This reflects a recommendation contained in a recent report released by the Legislative Auditor.
- **Citation.** Provides that this chapter may be cited as the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority Act.
- **Definitions.** Defines terms used in this chapter.
- Minnesota Science and Technology Authority. Provides that the authority consists of five commissioners: DEED, MMB, Revenue, Commerce, and Agriculture; and the state chief information officer. The commissioner of DEED is the chair. Authorizes members to delegate to the chair, vice-chair, or executive director authority for reviewing and approving projects. Requires the authority to employ an executive director, with the initial director being the current director of the Office of Science and Technology.
- Powers and duties. Specifies duties for the authority including:
 - coordinating efforts to obtain federal funding for research and development projects of primary benefit to small and medium-sized businesses; promoting contractual relationships between Minnesota businesses that receive federal grants and prime and subcontractors; working with higher education and nonprofit entities to promote collaborative efforts to respond to federal funding opportunities; developing a framework to establish sole-source relationships with federal agencies; providing grants or other forms of financial assistance; coordinating workshops and assistance with higher education institutions; and development of a comprehensive science and technology economic development strategy;
 - assisting businesses in identifying qualified supplier and vendors; and
 - providing commercialization assistance to specified types of Minnesota firms.

Authorizes the authority to enter into contracts, accept gifts, and charge fees. Requires an annual report to legislative committee chairs. Authorizes the authority to provide consultative and technical services to assist eligible projects.

Provides that financial information received or prepared by the authority regarding financial assistance is private data.

Project financial assistance. Requires the authority to assist eligible recipients in identifying and applying for grants or other sources of financial assistance. Requires the

authority to review proposed financing for each project submitted to the authority. Requires grants over \$50,000 to be approved by the authority. Provides that grants under this amount may be approved by the executive director. Authorizes the authority to reject proposed financing for a project if a majority of members believe financing would not be in the best interests of the state or would be detrimental to the authority's funds or programs.

- **Advisory commission.** Creates an advisory commission of 17 members to assist the authority in developing a comprehensive science and technology economic development plan, and in fulfilling other duties under this chapter.
- Money of the authority. Specifies procedures for receiving and paying out money.
- Nonliability. Provides that members and staff of the authority do not have personal liability, and that the state is not liable for authority loans, agreements or contracts.
- **State pledge against impairment of contracts.** Provides that the state pledges not to limit or alter rights vested in the authority to fulfill terms of agreements or to impair rights and remedies.
- **Reserves.** Authorizes the authority to establish reserves, funds, and accounts to carry out its purposes.
- Workforce focus. Directs the MNSCU Board of Trustees to identify its colleges offering flexible programs to accommodate the needs of laid-off workers and assist other institutions in the system in decisions about whether and how to offer similar programs. This reflects a recommendation contained in a recent report released by the Legislative Auditor.
- **Staffing service.** Defines a staffing service as an employer whose business involves employing individuals directly for the purpose of furnishing temporary assignment workers to clients of the staffing service.
- Suitable employment. Specifying that suitable employment does not include employment with a staffing service if less than 75 percent of the applicant's wage credits are from a job assignment with the client of a staffing service. A job assignment with a staffing service is considered suitable employment if at least 75 percent of the applicant's wage credits are from temporary job assignments and the job assignment meets the other requirements of suitable employment outlined in section 268.035, subdivision 23a, paragraph a.
- Actively seeking suitable employment defined. Provides that actively seeking a suitable job assignment or other employment with a staffing service is considered actively seeking suitable employment.
- **Quit defined.** Provides that an employee is considered to have quit if within five days of completing a job assignment from a staffing service, if they fail to request an additional suitable job assignment.
- **Discharge defined.** Specifies that the end of a job assignment with the client of a staffing service is considered a discharge from employment with the staffing service unless the applicant fails to request an additional suitable job assignment within five days.
- **Employment misconduct defined.** Modifies the standard for employment misconduct by establishing that a violation of standards of behavior must be egregious rather than serious.

- **Telephone number.** Requires that for any unemployment benefit determination, a telephone number must be prominently displayed for applicants or employers to contact with questions or to request further information.
- **Unemployment law judges.** Provides for minimum salary standards for unemployment law judges.
- **Administrative penalties.** Directs the commissioner to penalize employers who make offers of employment to an applicant when in fact, there are no jobs available.
- **Definitions.** Modifies definitions of applicant, license, licensee, notification date, and renewal deadline.
- Fees. Based on one-year licenses. Fees are doubled for two-year licenses and tripled for three-year licenses. Lapsed license renewals must include all license renewal fees during lapsed period. License renewals must include base fee, board fees, continuing education fees, and contractor recovery fund fees.

	Base Fee Renewal	Exam Fee	Late Fee (½ of Renewal Fee)	Continuing Education Fee	Board Fee
Type of License/Registration	One-Year Licenses			One-Year Licenses	One-Year Licenses
Entry Level	\$10	\$50	\$5	\$10	\$4
Journeyman	\$20	\$50	\$10	\$10	\$4
Master	\$40	\$50	\$25	\$10	\$4
Business	\$90	\$50	\$50	\$10	\$4

- Licenses requiring examination. Requires license application to demonstrate applicant is qualified to take examination and allows for a one-time rescheduling of examination (within one year) if applicants don't take examination at scheduled time. If examination not taken within one year, application is denied and fees nonrefundable. Requires commissioner to notify applicant of a passing score within 60 days of passing the test; applicant has 90 days thereafter to pay license fee.
- **License renewal.** Prohibits licensee from performing licensed work if license expires; licensee has two years after license expiration to apply for renewal.
- **Incomplete applications.** Specifies commissioner's duties and applicant's responsibilities in event of an incomplete application.
- License reinstatement. Sets for the requirements for license reinstatement after revocation including retaking the examination and payment of a \$100 reinstatement application fee in addition to other applicable license fees. Reinstatement after suspension must be done within two years and include \$100 reinstatement fee. Reinstatement after voluntary termination requires \$100 fee and application no later than date the license would have

- expired if not terminated.
- **Prohibition of transfer.** Prohibits a license from being sold or transferred.
- **Continuing education.** Specifies that department seminar offerings may be rescheduled once within one year and that course fees are not refundable.
- **Designation.** Provides that municipal building officials must be designated for each certification category created by statute or rule.
- **Applications; renewal; fees; expiration.** Codifies language regarding applications for initial and renewal of certification of building officials.
- **Certification criteria.** Strikes the \$70 non refundable fee for applying for examination and certification.
- 41 Certification categories. Codifies certification categories of building officials, certified building official-limited and accessibility specialist.
- **Continuing education.** Codifies language regarding continuing education requirements and time extensions.
- **Failure to renew.** Provides that individuals not making timely applications for renewal may not be certified and cannot be designated as the building official for any municipality.
- **Contractor bonds.** Changes yearly bond requirements to biennial requirements and increases fee from \$15 annually to \$100 biennially.
 - Provides that bond must be given and maintained.
- **Examination.** Changes reflect consolidation of examination requirements.
- License registration, renewal and expiration/electrical licenses. Changes reflect consolidation of licensing and other fees accomplished in section 2 and requires employers exempt from licensing requirements to file a certificate of "responsible person" along with a \$100 fee.
- **Reciprocity.** Clarifies requirements for license reciprocity.
- **Exemption from licensing/responsible persons.** Requires that an employer must pay a file fee to file a certificate of responsible person. The certificate is valid for two years from the date of filing. To maintain a certificate the employer must resubmit a certificate of responsible person every two years.
- **49 Contractor.** Provides definition of contractor.
- **Plumbing contractor.** Provides definition of plumbing contractor.
- **Responsible licensed plumber.** Provides definition of responsible licensed plumber.
- **Restricted plumbing contractor.** Provides definition of restricted plumbing contractor.
- **Local regulation.** Conforming changes to new definitions set forth above.

- Licensing; bond and insurance. Sets out differences between an individual licensee and a business licensee for license exemptions, master plumber and restricted master plumber requirements, and bond and insurance requirements.
- Plumber apprentices. Sets out requirements for supervision of apprentices by a licensed supervising master, restricted master, journeyman or restricted journeyman licensed and employed by the same employer as the apprentice. Apprentices may only work under the direct supervision of a licensed plumber and cannot supervise any plumbing work or make assignments of work to unlicensed persons.
- **Use of license.** Clarifies reference to use of census data (for determining population of cities and towns) to be the last federal census.
- **Renewal.** Specifies that renewal of plumbing licenses must be made within 12 months of license expiration date.
- 58 Application, exam and license fees/plumbing license. Makes conforming changes.
- **Responsible licensed master.** Provides definitions of responsible licensed master.
- Water conditioning contractor. Provides definitions of water conditioning contractor.
- **Water conditioning journeyman.** Provides definitions of water conditioning journeyman.
- Water conditioning master. Provides definitions of water conditioning master.
- Violations. Adds licensed water conditioning master and journeyman to those local authorities must report to commissioner when violations found.
- **Licensing in certain cities.** Allows only licensed water conditioning persons to perform work in all areas of state except cities and towns with population of 5,000 or less. Allows plumber apprentices to work on water conditioning installations under supervision of licensed plumber or water conditioning master or journeyman.
- **Bonding and insurance.** Sets forth bond and insurance requirements for water conditioning contractors.
- **Fees; renewal/water conditioning licenses.** Makes conforming changes.
- **Exemptions.** Specifies that for the purposes of fee calculation, a certificate of exemption is considered an entry level license.
- **Fees.** Specifies that residential contractor, residential remodeler and residential roofer licenses are business licensees for the purposes of fees.
- **Form/residential contractors.** Conforming changes.
- **Examination.** Conforming changes.
- 71 License. Conforming changes
- Manufactured home installer and licensed residential roofer bonds. Specifies that bond period is biennial.

- 73 Sign contractor bonds. Specifies that bond period is biennial.
- 74 **High pressure piping; business license.** Requires applications for business licenses to include a verified statement of compliance.
- 75 **High pressure piping registration.** Conforming changes.
- 76 **High pressure piping registration and renewal fees.** Conforming changes.
- 77 **High pressure piping license application and renewal.** Conforming changes.
- **Examination and licensing/boats.** Requires all people operating a boat to hold a current master's license or a charter boat captain's license issued by the U.S. Coast Guard.
- **Applications/boilers engineers.** Conforming changes.
- **Applicability.** Provides exemption for certain hobby boiler engineer licenses.
- **81 Boiler engineer license fees.** Conforming changes.
- **82 Installation.** Specifies that installation means installation or reinstallation.
- **Used manufactured home.** Sets for the definition of "used manufactured home" as a home offered for sale more than 24 months after the first purchaser took legal ownership.
- **Seller.** Provides definition of seller.
- **Requirement; new manufactured homes.** Requires that the sale or offer for sale of a new manufactured home bear a label required by the secretary.
- Requirement; used homes. Prohibits the sale of any used manufactured home made after June 14, 1976, unless the home complies with a signed notice of compliance form that outlines the home's meeting standards related to: cords and plugs for electric ranges and clothes dryers; solid fuel-burning fireplaces or stoves listed for use in manufactured homes with appropriate installation and adherence to listing standards; gas water heaters and furnaces listed for manufactured home use with appropriate installation and adherence to listing standards; smoke alarms; approved and operational carbon monoxide alarms or CO detectors; egress windows in each bedroom meeting operable and opening requirements; a furnace and water compartment lined with gypsum board; and compliance with snow load and heat zone requirements for the state.
- **Alternative design plan.** Provides for alternative frost free design.
- 88 Manufacturer's installation requirements and instructions for new homes. Requires that new single section manufactured homes and new multi-section homes be installed in compliance with either the manufacturer's installation instruction or the state building code.
- Manufacturer's installation and reinstallation requirements and instructions for used homes. Requires that used multi-section manufactured homes be installed in compliance with the manufacturer's installation instructions or the state building code.
- **Reinstallation for single section homes.** Does not require the reinstallation of a single-section home to be done in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements for a frost-

protected foundation system if the installation happens not less than 24 months from the date of installation. Installation made under this section must be installed to meet state rules for above frost line installation or an alternative design stamped by a licensed professional engineer or architect. Sets for the fee standards.

- **Notice requirement.** Sets for the notice requirements for sellers of single-section used manufactured home being reinstalled.
- **Generally.** Corrected reference.
- **Sub-agency license.** Provides that a sub-agency license renewal must coincide with the principal license date.
- **Licenses; renewal.** Conforming changes.
- **Fees.** Conforming changes.
- **96** Limited dealer's license. Conforming changes.
- 97 Manufactured home installers. Conforming changes.
- Services performed by governmental units/joint powers. Provides that if government units make an agreement that has the effect of eliminating or replacing a public employee who is part of a collective bargaining agreement, and there is no provision in the agreement to deal with the situation, negotiations on the effects must be conducted between the exclusive representative and the employer.
- Amendment to 2009 session law. Provides for the movement of base funding for the Office of Science and Technology in DEED to the new Science and Technology Authority; expanded use of construction mitigation grants; and expanded use of funding for renewable energy projects funded by the Minnesota Minerals 21st Century fund.
- **Amendment to 2010 session law.** Clarifies that St. Louis County is the fiscal agent for 2010 taconite distributions specified in Chapter 216.
- Customer service. Directs the commissioner of DEED in consultation with workforce service area staff to develop and implement processes and procedures to make seamless assistance available to unemployed Minnesotan's seeking a variety of services—including applying for unemployment benefits—through local workforce centers.
- Workforce services report and recommendations. Requires report to legislature by Governor's workforce council on performance and outcomes of workforce centers and identification of service gaps.
- **DEED block grant report.** Requires study and recommendations on use of block grants to distribute workforce funds
- **Study of division of general fund revenue account.** Requests the Carlson School at the U of M to study feasibility of dividing the state general fund revenue accounts among community financial institutions.
- **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$107,000 per year beginning in fiscal year 2011 to the Minnesota Science and Technology Authority.

- **Transfer.** Provides for transfer of any remaining funds in the appropriation to the Office of Science and Technology to the new Minnesota Science and Technology Authority.
- **Revisor instruction.** Technical reference changes related to manufactured homes.
- 108 Repealers.
- 109 Effective dates.