

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Section

Article 1

Appropriations

- 1 **Appropriations.** Technical specifications regarding applicable fiscal years.
- 2 **Department of Employment and Economic Development.** Provides appropriations. See spreadsheet for details.
- 3 **Department of Labor and Industry.** Provides appropriations. See spreadsheet for details.
- 4 **Business and community development.** Modifies an appropriation for the Minnesota Investment Fund made in 2013 to specify that up to three percent of the amount appropriated may be used for administrative expenses; and reduces from \$1,250,000 to \$750,000, the match requirement for a one time grant to the city of Morris for loans or grants for agricultural processing facilities or energy efficiency improvements.
- 5 **Vocational rehabilitation.** Extends for one year the time limit for the allocation of extended employment funds to Courage Center/Allina Health systems.
- 6 **Telecommunications.** Clarifies an appropriation rider enacted in 2013 for telecommunications access through the LCC.

Section

Article 2

Economic Development and Workforce Development

1 **Definitions.** (h) “Underserved areas” means areas lacking access to wireless broadband service at speeds that meet the state goals of 10-20 Mbps download/5-10 Mbps upload.

(i) “Unserved areas” means areas lacking access to wireless broadband service at speeds of 4 Mbps download/1 Mbps upload.

2 **Border to border broadband development grant program.**

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a broadband grant and loan program under the commissioner of employment and economic development.

Subd. 2. Eligible expenditures. Provides that grants and loans may support the development of middle- and last-mile broadband infrastructure supporting broadband speeds of at least 100 megabits per second upload and download.

Subd. 3. Eligible applicants. Lists eligible applicants, including businesses, political subdivisions, nonprofits, and co-ops.

Subd. 4. Application process. Directs the commissioner to develop administrative procedures governing the application process and to act as fiscal agent for the program.

Subd. 5. Application contents. Specifies application contents, including number of end-users who will acquire broadband access, evidence of community support for the project, sources of supplemental funding, and other information.

Subd. 6. Awarding grants and loans. Lists factors the commissioner must give priority to in evaluating applications. The commissioner must give priority to projects constructed in unserved areas and may give priority to those constructed in underserved areas.

3 **Border to border broadband fund.**

Subd. 1. Account established. Establishes the border-to-border broadband account in the state treasury, and directs the commissioner to credit to the account appropriations and transfers to the account.

Subd. 2. Expenditures. Specifies allowable expenditures from the account, including grants awarded by the program, and as a supplement to revenues raised by local bond sales for broadband development. Expenditures also include up to three percent of the amount of grants awarded for the department’s administrative expenses.

Subd. 3. Restrictions. Provides that no more than one-third of grant funds may be awarded to applicants from areas whose household density exceeds 100 households per square mile.

Section

Subd. 4. Appropriation. Appropriates money in the account to the commissioner for the purposes of the program.

- 4 **Citation; Regenerative Medicine Development Act.** Provides citation.
- 5 **Definitions.** Provides definitions.
- 6 **Office of Regenerative Medicine Development.** Establishes an Office of Regenerative Medicine Development to provide business development services and outreach to promote and expand the regenerative medicine industry in Minnesota.
- 7 **Workforce program outcomes.** Directs the commissioner of employment and economic development (DEED) to develop and implement a comprehensive system for data collection, reporting and analysis of the effects and outcomes for adult workforce development programs and services.
- 8 **Approved training programs.** Authorizes the commissioner of labor and industry to grant exemptions from child labor laws for minors participating in job training programs approved by the commissioner and for those participating in valid apprenticeship programs.
- 9 **Innovation voucher pilot program.** Directs the commissioner of DEED to develop and implement an innovation voucher pilot program to provide financial assistance to small businesses purchasing technical assistance and services for research, technical development, product development, commercialization, technology exploration and improved business practices. The maximum voucher award is limited to \$25,000 per business. Vouchers require a 50 percent match.
- 10 **Commissioner's accountability plan.** Requires the commissioner of DEED to report to the house and senate on a plan and needs for financing to design and implement a performance accountability outcome measure system for programs under Chapter 116J and 116L.
- 11 **New employee training partnership.** Provides financial assistance to employers for the training costs of new employees. The assistance is limited to businesses in the non-metro area and priority is given to employers in counties with an unemployment rate that is 1.5 percentage points higher than the state average rate. Training rebates equal up to \$3,000 per employee or \$4,000 per employee for employees that are veterans, disabled or long term unemployed.
- 12 **Pilot program; precision manufacturing and health care services.** Directs the commissioner of labor and industry to establish a pilot program for developing competency standards for an apprenticeship program in precision manufacturing and health care services.
- 13 **Pilot program; information technology.** Directs the commissioner of employment and economic development to establish a pilot program to develop competency standards for an information technology apprenticeship program.
- 14 **Outcomes.** Establishes the expected outcomes of the precision manufacturing and health care services and information technology apprenticeship pilot programs.

Section

- 15 **Repealer.** Repeals current program accountability requirements.

Article 3

Workers Compensation

- 1 **Occupational disease.** Codifies the recommendations of the workers compensation advisory council clarifying provisions related to post traumatic stress disorder. Specifies that for the purposes of workers' compensation reinsurance association losses and retention limits, one or more compensable mental impairment claims arising out of a single event or occurrence constitutes a single loss occurrence. This is effective for employees with dates of injuries on or after October 1, 2013.
- 2 **Payment to fund.** Makes adjustment to calendar year references and changes "premium surcharge" to "policyholder surcharge." Directs that if the current calendar year earned standard premium is not available, the commissioner shall estimate the portion of the total assessment allocated to insured employers using the earned standard workers' compensation premium from the preceding calendar year with a reconciliation and final determination by the commissioner when the current year information is available, but no later than December 1 of the following calendar year.
- 3 **Refunds.** Updates language to incorporate reference to reconciliation and determination under previous section.
- 4 **Medical bills and records.** Specifies references for medical services provided on or after October 1, 2014.
- 5 **Relative value fee schedule.** Deletes obsolete language.
- 6 **Initial report, written report.** Deletes reference to "telegraph."
- 7 **Settlement and pretrial conferences; summary decision.** Removes reference to section deleted in repealer.
- 8 **Repealers.**

Article 4

Miscellaneous

- 1 **Meetings by telephone or other means.** Modernizes provisions for meeting requirements related to the St. Paul Port Authority by cross references to section 13D.015.