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Overview

House File 3760 establishes a program to award grants to school districts that install solar energy systems on school buildings to generate electricity.

Section

1 [216C.418] Solar energy grants for school districts.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines a “school district” as an independent or special school district.

Defines “solar energy system” as a photovoltaic device that may be combined with a solar thermal or energy storage system.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Establishes a grant program in the Department of Commerce to award grants to school districts that install solar energy systems.

Subd. 3. Eligible applicants. Restricts eligibility to school districts receiving electric service from Xcel Energy.

Subd. 4. Eligible expenditures. Provides that grants may pay up to 95 percent of the purchase and installation costs of a solar energy system, or may pay up to that proportion of a solar lease or solar power purchase contract. The solar system capacity must be less than 300kW and must match the building’s electric load.

Subd. 5. Application process. Requires grant applications to be submitted to the commissioner of the Department of Commerce, who must develop administrative

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procedures to govern the grant award process and criteria for determining priorities among grant applications.

Subd. 6. Geographical distribution of grants. Requires the commissioner to endeavor to award grants to school districts in all regions of Xcel's electric service territory.

Subd. 7. Other funds. Allows a school district to issue debt under section 123B.62 to pay its share of the costs of the project.

Subd. 8. Administrative costs. Provides that the Department of Commerce may use up to . . . percent of the appropriation in subdivision 9 to pay reasonable administrative costs of the program.

Subd. 9. Appropriation. Appropriates \$. . . from the renewable development account in fiscal year 2019 for the grant program. Funds remains available until June 30, 2021.