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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **2363**

03/22/2021

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; establishing a task force to analyze options for increasing the
1.3 provision of weatherization services to low-income households; requiring a report;
1.4 appropriating money.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. **TASK FORCE ON EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF**
1.7 **WEATHERIZATION SERVICES.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.9 the meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce.

1.11 (c) "Weatherization Assistance Program" means the federal program described in Code
1.12 of Federal Regulations, title 10, part 440 et seq., designed to assist low-income households
1.13 to cost-effectively reduce energy use.

1.14 (d) "Weatherization service providers" means the network of contracted entities that
1.15 administer the Weatherization Assistance Program.

1.16 (e) "Weatherization assistance services" means the energy conservation measures installed
1.17 in households under the Weatherization Assistance Program.

1.18 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** A task force is established to explore ways to expand existing
1.19 funding sources and identify potential new funding sources in order to increase the number
1.20 of low-income Minnesota households served or the scope of services provided by the
1.21 Weatherization Assistance Program.

2.1 Subd. 3. **Membership.** (a) No later than August 1, 2021, the commissioner must appoint
2.2 members to the task force representing the following stakeholders:

2.3 (1) a statewide association representing Weatherization Assistance Program providers;

2.4 (2) individual Weatherization Assistance Program service providers;

2.5 (3) investor-owned utilities;

2.6 (4) electric cooperatives and municipal utilities;

2.7 (5) low-income energy advocates;

2.8 (6) Tribal nations; and

2.9 (7) delivered fuel dealers.

2.10 (b) Task force members serve without compensation.

2.11 (c) The commissioner must fill task force vacancies to maintain the representation
2.12 required under paragraph (a).

2.13 Subd. 4. **Meetings; officers.** (a) The commissioner must convene the first meeting of
2.14 the task force no later than August 15, 2021.

2.15 (b) At the task force's first meeting, the task force must elect a chair and vice-chair from
2.16 among its members and may elect other officers as necessary.

2.17 (c) The task force must meet according to a schedule determined by the task force, and
2.18 may also meet at the call of the chair. The task force must meet as often as necessary to
2.19 accomplish the duties listed under subdivision 5.

2.20 (d) Task force meetings are subject to the open meeting provisions of Minnesota Statutes,
2.21 chapter 13D.

2.22 Subd. 5. **Duties.** The task force must:

2.23 (1) develop a strategy to reduce, each year, a targeted number of eligible households
2.24 denied weatherization services due to unaddressed health, environmental, or structural
2.25 hazards in the home;

2.26 (2) explore new sources of funding in order to increase the number of households
2.27 receiving weatherization assistance services;

2.28 (3) analyze existing program models in other states that offer services that complement
2.29 the Weatherization Assistance Program;

(4) analyze the current distribution of weatherization services across ethnic groups, among different regions of Minnesota, in urban, suburban, and rural areas, and with respect to other demographic factors in order to determine how to distribute weatherization services more equitably throughout Minnesota;

(5) discuss how additional funding would impact the ability of weatherization assistance service providers to provide weatherization assistance services to more eligible households;

(6) identify services that a supplemental funding program could provide to address necessary repairs to homes that the federal Weatherization Assistance Program requires before weatherization assistance is provided, but which cannot be funded with federal Weatherization Assistance Program funds; and

(7) examine other related issues the task force deems relevant.

Subd. 6. **Administrative support.** The commissioner must provide administrative support and physical or virtual meeting space needed to complete the task force's work.

Subd. 7. **Report.** No later than February 1, 2022, the task force must submit a report on its findings and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy. The report must include recommendations for legislation to supplement funding for the Weatherization Assistance Program.

Subd. 8. **Expiration.** This section expires April 15, 2022.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2021.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

\$..... in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to implement the task force on expanding weatherization assistance services established under section 1. Any unexpended funds cancel to the general fund at the end of the fiscal year. This is a onetime appropriation.

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective July 1, 2021.