

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2992

03/12/2014 Authored by Falk and Hornstein

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; requiring utility rebate programs for certain thermostats;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.241, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a
1.6 subdivision to read:

1.7 Subd. 11. **Rebates; qualifying thermostats.** (a) By October 1, 2014, each
1.8 Minnesota utility must file with the department a program to provide a rebate to defray
1.9 by at least 50 percent the cost of a qualifying thermostat purchased and installed by a
1.10 residential heating customer. The department shall review each rebate program and may
1.11 approve, reject, or modify it. A rebate program approved by the department must be made
1.12 available to a utility's customers within 60 days of the approval.

1.13 (b) Energy savings achieved through the operation of a qualifying thermostat may be
1.14 applied toward the utility's energy savings goal in subdivision 1c.

1.15 (c) For the purposes of this subdivision:

1.16 (1) "qualifying thermostat" means a temperature-sensing device that:

1.17 (i) establishes and maintains a desired temperature automatically by actuating
1.18 heat-providing equipment;

1.19 (ii) can be programmed remotely via software that is accessed by a computer or
1.20 smart phone;

1.21 (iii) is capable of self-programming based on recently experienced temperature
1.22 settings; and

1.23 (iv) has been deemed cost-effective by the department;

2.1 (2) "residential heating customer" means a person who purchases energy from a
2.2 utility to heat the interior of a residence; and

2.3 (3) "smart phone" means a handheld cellular phone or other handheld mobile
2.4 device built on a mobile operating system and possessing advanced computing capability.
2.5 Features a smart phone may possess include, but are not limited to, built-in applications,
2.6 Internet access, digital voice service, text messaging, e-mail, and Web browsing.

2.7 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.