

**116J.58 POWERS AND DUTIES.**

Subdivision 1. **Enumeration.** The commissioner shall:

(1) investigate, study, and undertake ways and means of promoting and encouraging the prosperous development and protection of the legitimate interest and welfare of Minnesota business, industry, and commerce, within and outside the state;

(2) locate markets for manufacturers and processors and aid merchants in locating and contacting markets;

(3) investigate and study conditions affecting Minnesota business, industry, and commerce and collect and disseminate information, and engage in technical studies, scientific investigations, and statistical research and educational activities necessary or useful for the proper execution of the powers and duties of the commissioner in promoting and developing Minnesota business, industry, and commerce, both within and outside the state;

(4) plan and develop an effective business information service both for the direct assistance of business and industry of the state and for the encouragement of business and industry outside the state to use economic facilities within the state;

(5) compile, collect, and develop periodically, or otherwise make available, information relating to current business conditions;

(6) conduct or encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses of the natural and other resources of the state and designed to develop new products and industrial processes;

(7) study trends and developments in the industries of the state and analyze the reasons underlying the trends; study costs and other factors affecting successful operation of businesses within the state; and make recommendations regarding circumstances promoting or hampering business and industrial development;

(8) serve as a clearinghouse for business and industrial problems of the state; and advise small business enterprises regarding improved methods of accounting and bookkeeping;

(9) cooperate with interstate commissions engaged in formulating and promoting the adoption of interstate compacts and agreements helpful to business, industry, and commerce;

(10) cooperate with other state departments, and with boards, commissions, and other state agencies, in the preparation and coordination of plans and policies for the development of the state and for the use and conservation of its resources insofar as the use, conservation, and development may be appropriately directed or influenced by a state agency;



(11) assemble and coordinate information relative to the status, scope, cost, and employment possibilities and the availability of materials, equipment, and labor in connection with public works projects, state, county, and municipal; recommend limitations on the public works; gather current progress information with reference to public and private works projects of the state and its political subdivisions with reference to conditions of employment; inquire into and report to the governor, when requested by the governor, with respect to any program of public state improvements and the financing thereof; and request and obtain information from other state departments or agencies as may be needed properly to report thereon;

(12) study changes in population and current trends and prepare plans and suggest policies for the development and conservation of the resources of the state;

(13) confer and cooperate with the executive, legislative, or planning authorities of the United States and neighboring states and provinces and of the counties and municipalities of such neighboring states, for the purpose of bringing about a coordination between the development of such neighboring provinces, states, counties, and municipalities and the development of this state;

(14) generally, gather, compile, and make available statistical information relating to business, trade, commerce, industry, transportation, communication, natural resources, and other like subjects in this state, with authority to call upon other departments of the state for statistical data and results obtained by them and to arrange and compile that statistical information in a manner that seems wise;

(15) publish documents and annually convene regional meetings to inform businesses, local government units, assistance providers, and other interested persons of changes in state and federal law related to economic development;

(16) annually convene conferences of providers of economic development related financial and technical assistance for the purposes of exchanging information on economic development assistance, coordinating economic development activities, and formulating economic development strategies;

(17) provide business with information on the economic benefits of energy conservation and on the availability of energy conservation assistance; and

(18) prepare, as part of biennial budget process, performance measures for each business loan or grant program within the jurisdiction of the commissioner. Measures would include source of funds for each program, numbers of jobs proposed or promised at the time of application and the number of jobs created, estimated number of jobs retained, the average salary and benefits for the jobs resulting from the program, and the number of projects approved.



Subd. 2. **Promotional contracts.** In order to best carry out duties and responsibilities and to serve the people of the state in the promotion of tourism, trade, and economic development, the commissioner may engage in programs and projects jointly with a private person, firm, corporation or association and may enter into contracts under terms to be mutually agreed upon to carry out such programs and projects not including acquisition of land or buildings. Contracts may be negotiated and are not subject to the provisions of chapter 16C relating to competitive bidding.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1Sp2005 c 1 art 4 s 124]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1986 c 465 art 1 s 31]

**History:** 1947 c 587 s 6; 1967 c 299 s 5; 1979 c 333 s 98; 1981 c 284 s 1; 1981 c 356 s 207,248; 1983 c 289 s 54; 1984 c 582 s 1,23; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1985 c 248 s 30; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 8 s 63; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 16; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 140; 1993 c 163 art 1 s 15; 1993 c 252 s 1; 1995 c 232 s 1; 1996 c 369 s 4; 1998 c 386 art 2 s 35; 2002 c 380 art 2 s 2