

# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## Unofficial Engrossment

House Engrossment of a Senate File

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S. F. No. 972

04/15/2021 Companion to House File No. 1031. (Authors:Stephenson, Long and Lee)  
Read First Time and Sent for Comparison  
04/16/2021 Substituted for H. F. No. 1031  
Read for the Second Time  
04/20/2021 Calendar for the Day  
Bill was laid on the Table  
04/21/2021 Bill was taken from the Table  
Amended  
Read Third Time as Amended  
Passed by the House as Amended and transmitted to the Senate to include Floor Amendments  
04/22/2021 Refused to concur and a Conference Committee was appointed

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2 relating to commerce; establishing a biennial budget for Department of Commerce  
1.3 and energy activities; modifying various provisions governing and administered  
1.4 by the Department of Commerce; establishing a prescription drug affordability  
1.5 board and related regulations; modifying various provisions governing insurance;  
1.6 establishing a student loan borrower bill of rights; modifying and adding consumer  
1.7 protections; modifying provisions governing collections agencies and debt buyers;  
1.8 establishing and modifying energy conservation programs; establishing energy  
1.9 transition programs; establishing programs to combat climate change; establishing  
1.10 and modifying electric vehicle and solar energy programs; modifying other  
1.11 provisions governing renewable energy and utility regulation; modifying various  
1.12 fees and standards; making technical changes; establishing penalties; requiring  
1.13 reports; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 13.712,  
1.14 by adding a subdivision; 16B.86; 16B.87; 16C.135, subdivision 3; 16C.137,  
1.15 subdivision 1; 45.305, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 45.306, by adding  
1.16 a subdivision; 45.33, subdivision 1, by adding a subdivision; 47.59, subdivision  
1.17 2; 47.60, subdivision 2; 47.601, subdivisions 2, 6; 48.512, subdivisions 2, 3, 7;  
1.18 53.04, subdivision 3a; 56.131, subdivision 1; 60A.092, subdivision 10a, by adding  
1.19 a subdivision; 60A.0921, subdivision 2; 60A.14, subdivision 1; 60A.71, subdivision  
1.20 7; 61A.245, subdivision 4; 62J.23, subdivision 2; 65B.15, subdivision 1; 65B.43,  
1.21 subdivision 12; 65B.472, subdivision 1; 79.55, subdivision 10; 80G.06, subdivision  
1.22 1; 82.57, subdivisions 1, 5; 82.62, subdivision 3; 82.81, subdivision 12; 82B.021,  
1.23 subdivision 18, by adding subdivisions; 82B.03, by adding a subdivision; 82B.11,  
1.24 subdivision 3; 82B.195, by adding a subdivision; 115B.40, subdivision 1; 115C.094;  
1.25 116C.779, subdivision 1; 168.27, by adding a subdivision; 174.29, subdivision 1;  
1.26 174.30, subdivisions 1, 10; 216B.096, subdivisions 2, 3; 216B.097, subdivisions  
1.27 1, 2, 3; 216B.16, subdivisions 6, 13; 216B.164, subdivision 4, by adding a  
1.28 subdivision; 216B.1641; 216B.1645, subdivisions 1, 2; 216B.1691, subdivisions  
1.29 1, 2a, 2b, 2d, 2e, 2f, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10, by adding subdivisions; 216B.2401; 216B.241,  
1.30 subdivisions 1a, 1c, 1d, 1f, 1g, 2, 2b, 3, 5, 7, 8, by adding subdivisions; 216B.2412,  
1.31 subdivision 3; 216B.2422, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, by adding subdivisions;  
1.32 216B.2424, by adding subdivisions; 216B.243, subdivision 8; 216B.62, subdivision  
1.33 3b; 216C.05, subdivision 2; 216E.01, subdivision 9a; 216E.03, subdivisions 7, 10;  
1.34 216E.04, subdivision 2; 216F.012; 216F.04; 216H.02, subdivision 1; 221.031,  
1.35 subdivision 3b; 256B.0625, subdivisions 10, 17; 308A.201, subdivision 12;  
1.36 325E.21, by adding subdivisions; 325F.171, by adding a subdivision; 325F.172,  
1.37 by adding a subdivision; 326B.106, subdivision 1; 332.31, subdivisions 3, 6, by  
1.38 adding subdivisions; 332.311; 332.32; 332.33, subdivisions 1, 2, 5, 5a, 7, 8, by

2.1        adding a subdivision; 332.34; 332.345; 332.355; 332.37; 332.385; 332.40,  
2.2        subdivision 3; 332.42, subdivisions 1, 2; 349.11; 349.12, subdivisions 12a, 12b,  
2.3        12c; 386.375, subdivision 3; 514.972, subdivisions 4, 5; 514.973, subdivisions 3,  
2.4        4; 514.974; 514.977; 515.07; 515B.2-103; 515B.3-102; proposing coding for new  
2.5        law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 16B; 60A; 62J; 62Q; 80G; 82B; 116J; 216B;  
2.6        216C; 216F; 239; 325E; 325F; 332; 500; proposing coding for new law as  
2.7        Minnesota Statutes, chapter 58B; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections  
2.8        45.017; 45.306, subdivision 1; 60A.98; 60A.981; 60A.982; 115C.13; 216B.16,  
2.9        subdivision 10; 216B.1691, subdivision 2; 216B.241, subdivisions 1, 1b, 2c, 4,  
2.10        10; Laws 2017, chapter 5, section 1.

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

## ARTICLE 1

### COMMERCE FINANCE

#### Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS.

2.15        The sums shown in the columns marked "Appropriations" are appropriated to the agencies  
2.16        and for the purposes specified in this article. The appropriations are from the general fund,  
2.17        or another named fund, and are available for the fiscal years indicated for each purpose.  
2.18        The figures "2022" and "2023" used in this article mean that the appropriations listed under  
2.19        them are available for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, or June 30, 2023, respectively.  
2.20        "The first year" is fiscal year 2022. "The second year" is fiscal year 2023. "The biennium"  
2.21        is fiscal years 2022 and 2023. If an appropriation in this act is enacted more than once in  
2.22        the 2021 legislative session, the appropriation must be given effect only once.

<u>APPROPRIATIONS</u>		
<u>Available for the Year</u>		
	<u>Ending June 30</u>	
	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>

#### Sec. 2. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

<u>Subdivision 1. Total Appropriation</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>27,603,000</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>26,920,000</u>
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#### Appropriations by Fund

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
<u>General</u>	<u>24,267,000</u>	<u>24,061,000</u>
<u>Special Revenue</u>	<u>2,570,000</u>	<u>2,093,000</u>
<u>Workers'</u>		
<u>Compensation Fund</u>	<u>766,000</u>	<u>766,000</u>

2.35        The amounts that may be spent for each  
2.36        purpose are specified in the following  
2.37        subdivisions.

<u>Subd. 2. Financial Institutions</u>	<u>1,923,000</u>	<u>1,941,000</u>
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<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>			
3.1	<u>General</u>	<u>1,923,000</u>	<u>1,941,000</u>
3.3	<u>(a) \$400,000 each year is for a grant to Prepare</u>		
3.4	<u>and Prosper to develop, market, evaluate, and</u>		
3.5	<u>distribute a financial services inclusion</u>		
3.6	<u>program that (1) assists low-income and</u>		
3.7	<u>financially underserved populations to build</u>		
3.8	<u>savings and strengthen credit, and (2) provides</u>		
3.9	<u>services to assist low-income and financially</u>		
3.10	<u>underserved populations to become more</u>		
3.11	<u>financially stable and secure. Money</u>		
3.12	<u>remaining after the first year is available for</u>		
3.13	<u>the second year.</u>		
3.14	<u>(b) \$254,000 each year is to administer the</u>		
3.15	<u>requirements of Minnesota Statutes, chapter</u>		
3.16	<u>58B.</u>		
3.17	<u>Subd. 3. Administrative Services</u>	<u>9,346,000</u>	<u>8,821,000</u>
3.18	<u>(a) \$392,000 in the first year and \$401,000 in</u>		
3.19	<u>the second year are for additional compliance</u>		
3.20	<u>efforts with unclaimed property. The</u>		
3.21	<u>commissioner may issue contracts for these</u>		
3.22	<u>services.</u>		
3.23	<u>(b) \$5,000 each year is for Real Estate</u>		
3.24	<u>Appraisal Advisory Board compensation</u>		
3.25	<u>pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section</u>		
3.26	<u>82B.073, subdivision 2a.</u>		
3.27	<u>(c) \$353,000 each year is for system</u>		
3.28	<u>modernization and cybersecurity upgrades for</u>		
3.29	<u>the unclaimed property program.</u>		
3.30	<u>(d) \$564,000 each year is for additional</u>		
3.31	<u>operations of the unclaimed property program.</u>		
3.32	<u>(e) \$832,000 in the first year and \$208,000 in</u>		
3.33	<u>the second year are for IT system</u>		

4.1 modernization. The base in fiscal year 2024  
4.2 and beyond is \$0.

4.3 Subd. 4. Telecommunications 3,443,000 3,183,000

4.4 Appropriations by Fund

4.5 General 1,073,000 1,090,000  
4.6 Special Revenue 2,370,000 2,093,000

4.7 \$2,370,000 in the first year and \$2,093,000 in  
4.8 the second year are from the  
4.9 telecommunications access Minnesota fund  
4.10 account in the special revenue fund for the  
4.11 following transfers:

4.12 (1) \$1,620,000 each year is to the  
4.13 commissioner of human services to  
4.14 supplement the ongoing operational expenses  
4.15 of the Commission of Deaf, DeafBlind, and  
4.16 Hard-of-Hearing Minnesotans. This transfer  
4.17 is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
4.18 16A.281;

4.19 (2) \$290,000 each year is to the chief  
4.20 information officer to coordinate technology  
4.21 accessibility and usability;  
4.22 (3) \$410,000 in the first year and \$133,000 in  
4.23 the second year are to the Legislative  
4.24 Coordinating Commission for captioning  
4.25 legislative coverage. This transfer is subject  
4.26 to Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.281.

4.27 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the  
4.28 commissioner of management and budget must  
4.29 determine whether \$310,000 of the  
4.30 expenditures authorized under this clause for  
4.31 the first year are eligible uses of federal  
4.32 funding received under the Coronavirus State  
4.33 Fiscal Recovery Fund or any other federal  
4.34 funds received by the state under the American

5.1       Rescue Plan Act, Public Law 117-2. If the  
5.2       commissioner of management and budget  
5.3       determines an expenditure is eligible for  
5.4       funding under Public Law 117-2, the amount  
5.5       of the eligible expenditure is appropriated  
5.6       from the account where the federal funds have  
5.7       been deposited and the corresponding  
5.8       Telecommunications Access Minnesota Fund  
5.9       amounts appropriated under this clause cancel  
5.10       to the Telecommunications Access Minnesota  
5.11       Fund; and  
5.12       (4) \$50,000 each year is to the Office of  
5.13       MN.IT Services for a consolidated access fund  
5.14       to provide grants or services to other state  
5.15       agencies related to accessibility of web-based  
5.16       services.

5.17 Subd. 5. Enforcement 6,231,000 5,632,000

5.18	<u>Appropriations by Fund</u>		
5.19	<u>General</u>	<u>5,825,000</u>	<u>5,426,000</u>
5.20	<u>Workers'</u>		
5.21	<u>Compensation</u>	<u>206,000</u>	<u>206,000</u>
5.22	<u>Special Revenue</u>		
5.23	Fund	200,000	-0-

5.24 (a) \$283,000 in the first year and \$286,000 in  
5.25 the second year are for health care  
5.26 enforcement.

5.27 (b) \$201,000 each year is from the workers'  
5.28 compensation fund.

5.29 (c) \$5,000 each year is from the workers'

5.30 compensation fund for insurance fraud

5.31 specialist salary increases.

5.32 (d) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
5.33 section 297I.11, subdivision 2, \$200,000 in  
5.34 the first year is from the auto theft prevention  
5.35 account in the special revenue fund for the

6.1 catalytic converter theft prevention pilot  
6.2 project. This balance does not cancel but is  
6.3 available in the second year.

6.4 (e) \$190,000 in the first year is from the  
6.5 general fund for the catalytic converter theft  
6.6 prevention pilot project. This balance does not  
6.7 cancel but is available in the second year. The  
6.8 general fund base for the catalytic converter  
6.9 theft prevention pilot project in fiscal year  
6.10 2024 and fiscal year 2025 is \$92,000.

6.11 (f) \$300,000 in the first year is transferred  
6.12 from the consumer education account in the  
6.13 special revenue fund to the general fund.  
6.14 \$300,000 in the first year is to the  
6.15 commissioner of education to issue grants of  
6.16 \$150,000 each year to the Minnesota Council  
6.17 on Economic Education. This balance does  
6.18 not cancel but is available in the second year.

6.19 Subd. 6. Insurance 6,660,000 7,343,000

6.20 Appropriations by Fund  
6.21 General 6,100,000 6,783,000  
6.22 Workers'  
6.23 Compensation 560,000 560,000

6.24 (a) \$656,000 in the first year and \$671,000 in  
6.25 the second year are for health insurance rate  
6.26 review staffing.

6.27 (b) \$421,000 in the first year and \$431,000 in  
6.28 the second year are for actuarial work to  
6.29 prepare for implementation of principle-based  
6.30 reserves.

6.31 (c) \$30,000 in the first year is to pay for two  
6.32 years of membership dues for Minnesota to  
6.33 the National Conference of Insurance  
6.34 Legislators.

7.1       (d) \$428,000 in the first year and \$432,000 in  
7.2       the second year are for licensing activities  
7.3       under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62W. Of  
7.4       this amount, \$246,000 each year must be used  
7.5       only for staff costs associated with two  
7.6       enforcement investigators to enforce  
7.7       Minnesota Statutes, chapter 62W.

7.8       (e) \$560,000 each year is from the workers'  
7.9       compensation fund.

7.10       (f) \$197,000 in the first year is to establish the  
7.11       Prescription Drug Affordability Board under  
7.12       Minnesota Statutes, section 62J.87. Following  
7.13       the first meeting of the board and prior to June  
7.14       30, 2022, the commissioner shall transfer any  
7.15       funds remaining from this appropriation to the  
7.16       board.

7.17       (g) \$358,000 in the second year is to the  
7.18       Prescription Drug Affordability Board  
7.19       established under Minnesota Statutes, section  
7.20       62J.87, to implement the Prescription Drug  
7.21       Affordability Act.

7.22       (h) \$456,000 in the second year is to the  
7.23       attorney general's office to enforce the  
7.24       Prescription Drug Affordability Act.

7.25       **Sec. 3. CANCELLATION; FISCAL YEAR 2021.**

7.26       \$1,220,000 of the fiscal year 2021 general fund appropriation under Laws 2019, First  
7.27       Special Session chapter 7, article 1, section 6, subdivision 3, is canceled.

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

7.29       **Sec. 4. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE; APPROPRIATION.**

7.30       (a) \$4,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the workers' compensation fund to  
7.31       the commissioner of commerce for insurance fraud specialist salary increases.

(b) \$97,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for enforcement.

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

## Sec. 5. TRANSFER.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, in fiscal year 2024 the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association shall transfer the remaining balance from the premium security plan account in the special revenue fund to the commissioner of commerce. Any amount transferred to the commissioner of commerce shall be deposited in the general fund.

## ARTICLE 2

# PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD

## Section 1. **[62J.85] CITATION.**

Sections 62J.85 to 62J.95 may be cited as the "Prescription Drug Affordability Act."

Sec. 2. **[62J.86] DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of sections 62J.85 to 62J.95, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Advisory council.** "Advisory council" means the Prescription Drug Affordability Advisory Council established under section 62J.88.

Subd. 3. **Biologic.** "Biologic" means a drug that is produced or distributed in accordance with a biologics license application approved under Code of Federal Regulations, title 42, section 447.502.

Subd. 4. **Biosimilar.** "Biosimilar" has the meaning given in section 62J.84, subdivision 2, paragraph (b).

Subd. 5. **Board.** "Board" means the Prescription Drug Affordability Board established under section 62J.87.

Subd. 6. **Brand name drug.** "Brand name drug" has the meaning given in section 62J.84, subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

Subd. 7. **Generic drug.** "Generic drug" has the meaning given in section 62J.84, subdivision 2, paragraph (e).

9.1        Subd. 8. **Group purchaser.** "Group purchaser" has the meaning given in section 62J.03,  
9.2        subdivision 6, and includes pharmacy benefit managers, as defined in section 62W.02,  
9.3        subdivision 15.

9.4        Subd. 9. **Manufacturer.** "Manufacturer" means an entity that:

9.5        (1) engages in the manufacture of a prescription drug product or enters into a lease with  
9.6        another manufacturer to market and distribute a prescription drug product under the entity's  
9.7        own name; and

9.8        (2) sets or changes the wholesale acquisition cost of the prescription drug product it  
9.9        manufacturers or markets.

9.10       Subd. 10. **Prescription drug product.** "Prescription drug product" means a brand name  
9.11       drug, a generic drug, a biologic, or a biosimilar.

9.12       Subd. 11. **Wholesale acquisition cost or WAC.** "Wholesale acquisition cost" or "WAC"  
9.13       has the meaning given in United States Code, title 42, section 1395W-3a(c)(6)(B).

9.14       **Sec. 3. [62J.87] PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD.**

9.15       Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of commerce shall establish the  
9.16       Prescription Drug Affordability Board, which shall be governed as a board under section  
9.17       15.012, paragraph (a), to protect consumers, state and local governments, health plan  
9.18       companies, providers, pharmacies, and other health care system stakeholders from  
9.19       unaffordable costs of certain prescription drugs.

9.20       Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The Prescription Drug Affordability Board consists of nine  
9.21       members appointed as follows:

9.22       (1) seven voting members appointed by the governor;

9.23       (2) one nonvoting member appointed by the majority leader of the senate; and

9.24       (3) one nonvoting member appointed by the speaker of the house.

9.25       (b) All members appointed must have knowledge and demonstrated expertise in  
9.26       pharmaceutical economics and finance or health care economics and finance. A member  
9.27       must not be an employee of, a board member of, or a consultant to a manufacturer or trade  
9.28       association for manufacturers or a pharmacy benefit manager or trade association for  
9.29       pharmacy benefit managers.

9.30       (c) Initial appointments shall be made by January 1, 2022.

10.1        Subd. 3. **Terms.** (a) Board appointees shall serve four-year terms, except that initial  
10.2        appointees shall serve staggered terms of two, three, or four years as determined by lot by  
10.3        the secretary of state. A board member shall serve no more than two consecutive terms.

10.4        (b) A board member may resign at any time by giving written notice to the board.

10.5        Subd. 4. **Chair; other officers.** (a) The governor shall designate an acting chair from  
10.6        the members appointed by the governor. The acting chair shall convene the first meeting  
10.7        of the board.

10.8        (b) The board shall elect a chair to replace the acting chair at the first meeting of the  
10.9        board by a majority of the members. The chair shall serve for one year.

10.10        (c) The board shall elect a vice-chair and other officers from the board's membership as  
10.11        the board deems necessary.

10.12        Subd. 5. **Staff; technical assistance.** (a) The board shall hire an executive director and  
10.13        other staff, who shall serve in the unclassified service. The executive director must have  
10.14        knowledge and demonstrated expertise in pharmacoeconomics, pharmacology, health policy,  
10.15        health services research, medicine, or a related field or discipline. The board may employ  
10.16        or contract for professional and technical assistance as the board deems necessary to perform  
10.17        the board's duties.

10.18        (b) The attorney general shall provide legal services to the board.

10.19        Subd. 6. **Compensation.** The board members shall not receive compensation but may  
10.20        receive reimbursement for expenses as authorized under section 15.059, subdivision 3.

10.21        Subd. 7. **Meetings.** (a) Meetings of the board are subject to chapter 13D. The board shall  
10.22        meet publicly at least every three months to review prescription drug product information  
10.23        submitted to the board under section 62J.90. If there are no pending submissions, the chair  
10.24        of the board may cancel or postpone the required meeting. The board may meet in closed  
10.25        session when reviewing proprietary information, as determined under the standards developed  
10.26        in accordance with section 62J.91, subdivision 4.

10.27        (b) The board shall announce each public meeting at least two weeks prior to the  
10.28        scheduled date of the meeting. Any materials for the meeting shall be made public at least  
10.29        one week prior to the scheduled date of the meeting.

10.30        (c) At each public meeting, the board shall provide the opportunity for comments from  
10.31        the public, including the opportunity for written comments to be submitted to the board  
10.32        prior to a decision by the board.

**Sec. 4. [62J.88] PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The governor shall appoint a 12-member stakeholder advisory council to provide advice to the board on drug cost issues and to represent stakeholders' views. The members of the advisory council shall be appointed based on the members' knowledge and demonstrated expertise in one or more of the following areas: the pharmaceutical business; practice of medicine; patient perspectives; health care cost trends and drivers; clinical and health services research; and the health care marketplace.

**Subd. 2. Membership.** The council's membership shall consist of the following:

(1) two members representing patients and health care consumers;

(2) two members representing health care providers;

(3) one member representing health plan companies;

(4) two members representing employers, with one member representing large employers and one member representing small employers;

(5) one member representing government employee benefit plans;

(6) one member representing pharmaceutical manufacturers;

(7) one member who is a health services clinical researcher;

(8) one member who is a pharmacologist; and

(9) one member with expertise in health economics representing the commissioner of health.

**Subd. 3. Terms.** (a) The initial appointments to the advisory council shall be made by January 1, 2022. The initial appointed advisory council members shall serve staggered terms of two, three, or four years determined by lot by the secretary of state. Following the initial appointments, the advisory council members shall serve four-year terms.

(b) Removal and vacancies of advisory council members is governed by section 15.059.

**Subd. 4. Compensation.** Advisory council members may be compensated according to section 15.059.

**Subd. 5. Meetings.** Meetings of the advisory council are subject to chapter 13D. The advisory council shall meet publicly at least every three months to advise the board on drug cost issues related to the prescription drug product information submitted to the board under section 62J.90.

12.1      Subd. 6. Exemption. Notwithstanding section 15.059, the advisory council does not  
12.2      expire.

12.3      **Sec. 5. [62J.89] CONFLICTS OF INTEREST.**

12.4      Subdivision 1. Definition. For purposes of this section, "conflict of interest" means a  
12.5      financial or personal association that has the potential to bias or have the appearance of  
12.6      biassing a person's decisions in matters related to the board, the advisory council, or in the  
12.7      conduct of the board's or council's activities. A conflict of interest includes any instance in  
12.8      which a person, a person's immediate family member, including a spouse, parent, child, or  
12.9      other legal dependent, or an in-law of any of the preceding individuals has received or could  
12.10      receive a direct or indirect financial benefit of any amount deriving from the result or findings  
12.11      of a decision or determination of the board. For purposes of this section, a financial benefit  
12.12      includes honoraria, fees, stock, the value of the member's, immediate family member's, or  
12.13      in-law's stock holdings, and any direct financial benefit deriving from the finding of a review  
12.14      conducted under sections 62J.85 to 62J.95. Ownership of securities is not a conflict of  
12.15      interest if the securities are: (1) part of a diversified mutual or exchange traded fund; or (2)  
12.16      in a tax-deferred or tax-exempt retirement account that is administered by an independent  
12.17      trustee.

12.18      Subd. 2. General. (a) Prior to the acceptance of an appointment or employment, or prior  
12.19      to entering into a contractual agreement, a board or advisory council member, board staff  
12.20      member, or third-party contractor must disclose to the appointing authority or the board  
12.21      any conflicts of interest. The information disclosed shall include the type, nature, and  
12.22      magnitude of the interests involved.

12.23      (b) A board member, board staff member, or third-party contractor with a conflict of  
12.24      interest with regard to any prescription drug product under review must recuse themselves  
12.25      from any discussion, review, decision, or determination made by the board relating to the  
12.26      prescription drug product.

12.27      (c) Any conflict of interest must be disclosed in advance of the first meeting after the  
12.28      conflict is identified or within five days after the conflict is identified, whichever is earlier.

12.29      Subd. 3. Prohibitions. Board members, board staff, or third-party contractors are  
12.30      prohibited from accepting gifts, bequeaths, or donations of services or property that raise  
12.31      the specter of a conflict of interest or have the appearance of injecting bias into the activities  
12.32      of the board.

13.1      **Sec. 6. [62J.90] PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRICE INFORMATION; DECISION TO**  
13.2      **CONDUCT COST REVIEW.**

13.3      **Subdivision 1. Drug price information from the commissioner of health and other**  
13.4      **sources. (a) The commissioner of health shall provide to the board the information reported**  
13.5      **to the commissioner by drug manufacturers under section 62J.84, subdivisions 3, 4, and 5.**  
13.6      **The commissioner shall provide this information to the board within 30 days of the date the**  
13.7      **information is received from drug manufacturers.**

13.8      **(b) The board shall subscribe to one or more prescription drug pricing files, such as**  
13.9      **Medispan or FirstDatabank, or as otherwise determined by the board.**

13.10     **Subd. 2. Identification of certain prescription drug products. (a) The board, in**  
13.11     **consultation with the advisory council, shall identify the following prescription drug products:**

13.12     **(1) brand name drugs or biologics for which the WAC increases by more than ten percent**  
13.13     **or by more than \$10,000 during any 12-month period or course of treatment if less than 12**  
13.14     **months, after adjusting for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI);**

13.15     **(2) brand name drugs or biologics that have been introduced at a WAC of \$30,000 or**  
13.16     **more per calendar year or per course of treatment;**

13.17     **(3) biosimilar drugs that have been introduced at a WAC that is not at least 15 percent**  
13.18     **lower than the referenced brand name biologic at the time the biosimilar is introduced; and**

13.19     **(4) generic drugs for which the WAC:**

13.20     **(i) is \$100 or more, after adjusting for changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), for:**  
13.21     **(A) a 30-day supply lasting a patient for a period of 30 consecutive days based on the**  
13.22     **recommended dosage approved for labeling by the United States Food and Drug**  
13.23     **Administration (FDA);**

13.24     **(B) a supply lasting a patient for fewer than 30 days based on recommended dosage**  
13.25     **approved for labeling by the FDA; or**

13.26     **(C) one unit of the drug if the labeling approved by the FDA does not recommend a**  
13.27     **finite dosage; and**

13.28     **(ii) is increased by 200 percent or more during the immediate preceding 12-month period,**  
13.29     **as determined by the difference between the resulting WAC and the average of the WAC**  
13.30     **reported over the preceding 12 months, after adjusting for changes in the Consumer Price**  
13.31     **Index (CPI).**

14.1        (b) The board, in consultation with the advisory council, shall identify prescription drug  
14.2        products not described in paragraph (a) that may impose costs that create significant  
14.3        affordability challenges for the state health care system or for patients, including but not  
14.4        limited to drugs to address public health emergencies.

14.5        (c) The board shall make available to the public the names and related price information  
14.6        of the prescription drug products identified under this subdivision, with the exception of  
14.7        information determined by the board to be proprietary under the standards developed by  
14.8        the board under section 62J.91, subdivision 4.

14.9        **Subd. 3. Determination to proceed with review.** (a) The board may initiate a cost  
14.10        review of a prescription drug product identified by the board under this section.

14.11        (b) The board shall consider requests by the public for the board to proceed with a cost  
14.12        review of any prescription drug product identified under this section.

14.13        (c) If there is no consensus among the members of the board with respect to whether or  
14.14        not to initiate a cost review of a prescription drug product, any member of the board may  
14.15        request a vote to determine whether or not to review the cost of the prescription drug product.

14.16        **Sec. 7. [62J.91] PRESCRIPTION DRUG PRODUCT REVIEWS.**

14.17        **Subdivision 1. General.** Once a decision by the board has been made to proceed with  
14.18        a cost review of a prescription drug product, the board shall conduct the review and make  
14.19        a determination as to whether appropriate utilization of the prescription drug under review,  
14.20        based on utilization that is consistent with the United States Food and Drug Administration  
14.21        (FDA) label or standard medical practice, has led or will lead to affordability challenges  
14.22        for the state health care system or for patients.

14.23        **Subd. 2. Review considerations.** In reviewing the cost of a prescription drug product,  
14.24        the board may consider the following factors:

14.25        (1) the price at which the prescription drug product has been and will be sold in the state;

14.26        (2) the average monetary price concession, discount, or rebate the manufacturer provides  
14.27        to a group purchaser in this state as reported by the manufacturer and the group purchaser  
14.28        expressed as a percent of the WAC for prescription drug product under review;

14.29        (3) the price at which therapeutic alternatives have been or will be sold in the state;

14.30        (4) the average monetary price concession, discount, or rebate the manufacturer provides  
14.31        or is expected to provide to a group purchaser in the state or is expected to provide to group  
14.32        purchasers in the state for therapeutic alternatives;

15.1        (5) the cost to group purchasers based on patient access consistent with the United States  
15.2        Food and Drug Administration (FDA) labeled indications;

15.3        (6) the impact on patient access resulting from the cost of the prescription drug product  
15.4        relative to insurance benefit design;

15.5        (7) the current or expected dollar value of drug-specific patient access programs that are  
15.6        supported by manufacturers;

15.7        (8) the relative financial impacts to health, medical, or other social services costs that  
15.8        can be quantified and compared to baseline effects of existing therapeutic alternatives;

15.9        (9) the average patient co-pay or other cost-sharing for the prescription drug product in  
15.10       the state;

15.11       (10) any information a manufacturer chooses to provide; and  
15.12       (11) any other factors as determined by the board.

15.13       Subd. 3. **Further review factors.** If, after considering the factors described in subdivision  
15.14       2, the board is unable to determine whether a prescription drug product will produce or has  
15.15       produced an affordability challenge, the board may consider:

15.16       (1) manufacturer research and development costs, as indicated on the manufacturer's  
15.17       federal tax filing for the most recent tax year in proportion to the manufacturer's sales in  
15.18       the state;

15.19       (2) that portion of direct-to-consumer marketing costs eligible for favorable federal tax  
15.20       treatment in the most recent tax year that are specific to the prescription drug product under  
15.21       review and that are multiplied by the ratio of total manufacturer in-state sales to total  
15.22       manufacturer sales in the United States for the product under review;

15.23       (3) gross and net manufacturer revenues for the most recent tax year;

15.24       (4) any information and research related to the manufacturer's selection of the introductory  
15.25       price or price increase, including but not limited to:

15.26       (i) life cycle management;

15.27       (ii) market competition and context; and

15.28       (iii) projected revenue; and

15.29       (5) any additional factors determined by the board to be relevant.

16.1        Subd. 4. Public data; proprietary information. (a) Any submission made to the board  
16.2        related to a drug cost review shall be made available to the public, with the exception of  
16.3        information determined by the board to be proprietary.

16.4        (b) The board shall establish the standards for the information to be considered proprietary  
16.5        under paragraph (a) and section 62J.90, subdivision 2, including standards for heightened  
16.6        consideration of proprietary information for submissions for a cost review of a drug that is  
16.7        not yet approved by the FDA.

16.8        (c) Prior to the board establishing the standards under paragraph (b), the public shall be  
16.9        provided notice and the opportunity to submit comments.

16.10        Sec. 8. [62J.92] DETERMINATIONS; COMPLIANCE; REMEDIES.

16.11        Subdivision 1. Upper payment limit. (a) In the event the board finds that the spending  
16.12        on a prescription drug product reviewed under section 62J.91 creates an affordability  
16.13        challenge for the state health care system or for patients, the board shall establish an upper  
16.14        payment limit after considering:

16.15        (1) the cost to administer the drug;  
16.16        (2) the cost to deliver the drug to consumers;  
16.17        (3) the range of prices at which the drug is sold in the United States according to one or  
16.18        more pricing files accessed under section 62J.90, subdivision 1, and the range at which  
16.19        pharmacies are reimbursed in Canada; and  
16.20        (4) any other relevant pricing and administrative cost information for the drug.

16.21        (b) The upper payment limit shall apply to all public and private purchases, payments,  
16.22        and payer reimbursements for the prescription drug product that is intended for individuals  
16.23        in the state in person, by mail, or by other means.

16.24        Subd. 2. Noncompliance. (a) The failure of an entity to comply with an upper payment  
16.25        limit established by the board under this section shall be referred to the Office of the Attorney  
16.26        General.

16.27        (b) If the Office of the Attorney General finds that an entity was noncompliant with the  
16.28        upper payment limit requirements, the attorney general may pursue remedies consistent  
16.29        with chapter 8 or appropriate criminal charges if there is evidence of intentional profiteering.

16.30        (c) An entity who obtains price concessions from a drug manufacturer that result in a  
16.31        lower net cost to the stakeholder than the upper payment limit established by the board shall  
16.32        not be considered to be in noncompliance.

17.1        (d) The Office of the Attorney General may provide guidance to stakeholders concerning  
17.2        activities that could be considered noncompliant.

17.3        Subd. 3. Appeals. (a) A person affected by a decision of the board may request an appeal  
17.4        of the board's decision within 30 days of the date of the decision. The board shall hear the  
17.5        appeal and render a decision within 60 days of the hearing.

17.6        (b) All appeal decisions are subject to judicial review in accordance with chapter 14.

17.7        **Sec. 9. [62J.93] REPORTS.**

17.8        Beginning March 1, 2022, and each March 1 thereafter, the board shall submit a report  
17.9        to the governor and legislature on general price trends for prescription drug products and  
17.10        the number of prescription drug products that were subject to the board's cost review and  
17.11        analysis, including the result of any analysis as well as the number and disposition of appeals  
17.12        and judicial reviews.

17.13        **Sec. 10. [62J.94] ERISA PLANS AND MEDICARE DRUG PLANS.**

17.14        (a) Nothing in sections 62J.85 to 62J.95 shall be construed to require ERISA plans or  
17.15        Medicare Part D plans to comply with decisions of the board, but are free to choose to  
17.16        exceed the upper payment limit established by the board under section 62J.92.

17.17        (b) Providers who dispense and administer drugs in the state must bill all payers no more  
17.18        than the upper payment limit without regard to whether or not an ERISA plan or Medicare  
17.19        Part D plan chooses to reimburse the provider in an amount greater than the upper payment  
17.20        limit established by the board.

17.21        (c) For purposes of this section, an ERISA plan or group health plan is an employee  
17.22        welfare benefit plan established by or maintained by an employer or an employee  
17.23        organization, or both, that provides employer sponsored health coverage to employees and  
17.24        the employee's dependents and is subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act  
17.25        of 1974 (ERISA).

17.26        **Sec. 11. [62J.95] SEVERABILITY.**

17.27        If any provision of sections 62J.85 to 62J.94 or the application of sections 62J.85 to  
17.28        62J.94 to any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason in a court of competent  
17.29        jurisdiction, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or any other application of sections  
17.30        62J.85 to 62J.94 that can be given effect without the invalid provision or application.

18.1

## ARTICLE 3

### INSURANCE

18.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 60A.092, subdivision 10a, is amended to read:

18.4 Subd. 10a. **Other jurisdictions.** The reinsurance is ceded and credit allowed to an  
18.5 assuming insurer not meeting the requirements of subdivision 2, 3, 4, 5, or 10, or 10b, but  
18.6 only with respect to the insurance of risks located in jurisdictions where the reinsurance is  
18.7 required by applicable law or regulation of that jurisdiction.

18.8 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022, and applies to reinsurance  
18.9 contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.

18.10 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 60A.092, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
18.11 read:

18.12 Subd. 10b. **Credit allowed; reciprocal jurisdiction.** (a) Credit shall be allowed when  
18.13 the reinsurance is ceded to an assuming insurer meeting each of the following conditions:

18.14 (1) the assuming insurer must have its head office in or be domiciled in, as applicable,  
18.15 and be licensed in a reciprocal jurisdiction. A "reciprocal jurisdiction" means a jurisdiction  
18.16 that is:

18.17 (i) a non-United States jurisdiction that is subject to an in-force covered agreement with  
18.18 the United States, each within its legal authority, or, in the case of a covered agreement  
18.19 between the United States and the European Union, is a member state of the European  
18.20 Union. For purposes of this subdivision, a "covered agreement" means an agreement entered  
18.21 into pursuant to the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act, United  
18.22 States Code, title 31, sections 313 and 314, that is currently in effect or in a period of  
18.23 provisional application and addresses the elimination, under specified conditions, of collateral  
18.24 requirements as a condition for entering into any reinsurance agreement with a ceding insurer  
18.25 domiciled in Minnesota or for allowing the ceding insurer to recognize credit for reinsurance;

18.26 (ii) a United States jurisdiction that meets the requirements for accreditation under the  
18.27 National Association of Insurance Commissioners (NAIC) financial standards and  
18.28 accreditation program; or

18.29 (iii) a qualified jurisdiction, as determined by the commissioner, which is not otherwise  
18.30 described in item (i) or (ii) and which meets the following additional requirements, consistent  
18.31 with the terms and conditions of in-force covered agreements:

19.1       (A) provides that an insurer which has its head office or is domiciled in such qualified  
19.2       jurisdiction shall receive credit for reinsurance ceded to a United States-domiciled assuming  
19.3       insurer in the same manner as credit for reinsurance is received for reinsurance assumed by  
19.4       insurers domiciled in such qualified jurisdiction;

19.5       (B) does not require a United States-domiciled assuming insurer to establish or maintain  
19.6       a local presence as a condition for entering into a reinsurance agreement with any ceding  
19.7       insurer subject to regulation by the non-United States jurisdiction or as a condition to allow  
19.8       the ceding insurer to recognize credit for such reinsurance;

19.9       (C) recognizes the United States state regulatory approach to group supervision and  
19.10       group capital, by providing written confirmation by a competent regulatory authority, in  
19.11       such qualified jurisdiction, that insurers and insurance groups that are domiciled or maintain  
19.12       their headquarters in this state or another jurisdiction accredited by the NAIC shall be subject  
19.13       only to worldwide prudential insurance group supervision including worldwide group  
19.14       governance, solvency and capital, and reporting, as applicable, by the commissioner or the  
19.15       commissioner of the domiciliary state and will not be subject to group supervision at the  
19.16       level of the worldwide parent undertaking of the insurance or reinsurance group by the  
19.17       qualified jurisdiction; and

19.18       (D) provides written confirmation by a competent regulatory authority in such qualified  
19.19       jurisdiction that information regarding insurers and their parent, subsidiary, or affiliated  
19.20       entities, if applicable, shall be provided to the commissioner in accordance with a  
19.21       memorandum of understanding or similar document between the commissioner and such  
19.22       qualified jurisdiction, including but not limited to the International Association of Insurance  
19.23       Supervisors Multilateral Memorandum of Understanding or other multilateral memoranda  
19.24       of understanding coordinated by the NAIC;

19.25       (2) the assuming insurer must have and maintain, on an ongoing basis, minimum capital  
19.26       and surplus, or its equivalent, calculated according to the methodology of its domiciliary  
19.27       jurisdiction, on at least an annual basis as of the preceding December 31 or on the date  
19.28       otherwise statutorily reported to the reciprocal jurisdiction, in the following amounts:

19.29       (i) no less than \$250,000,000; or

19.30       (ii) if the assuming insurer is an association, including incorporated and individual  
19.31       unincorporated underwriters:

19.32       (A) minimum capital and surplus equivalents, net of liabilities, or own funds of the  
19.33       equivalent of at least \$250,000,000; and

20.1 (B) a central fund containing a balance of at least \$250,000,000;

20.2 (3) the assuming insurer must have and maintain, on an ongoing basis, a minimum  
20.3 solvency or capital ratio, as applicable, as follows:

20.4 (i) if the assuming insurer has its head office or is domiciled in a reciprocal jurisdiction  
20.5 defined in clause (1), item (i), the ratio specified in the applicable covered agreement;

20.6 (ii) if the assuming insurer is domiciled in a reciprocal jurisdiction defined in clause (1),  
20.7 item (ii), a risk-based capital ratio of 300 percent of the authorized control level, calculated  
20.8 in accordance with the formula developed by the NAIC; or

20.9 (iii) if the assuming insurer is domiciled in a Reciprocal Jurisdiction defined in clause  
20.10 (1), item (iii), after consultation with the reciprocal jurisdiction and considering any  
20.11 recommendations published through the NAIC Committee Process, such solvency or capital  
20.12 ratio as the commissioner determines to be an effective measure of solvency;

20.13 (4) the assuming insurer must agree and provide adequate assurance in the form of a  
20.14 properly executed Form AR-1, Form CR-1, and Form RJ-1 of its agreement to the following:

20.15 (i) the assuming insurer must provide prompt written notice and explanation to the  
20.16 commissioner if it falls below the minimum requirements set forth in clause (2) or (3), or  
20.17 if any regulatory action is taken against the assuming insurer for serious noncompliance  
20.18 with applicable law;

20.19 (ii) the assuming insurer must consent in writing to the jurisdiction of the courts of  
20.20 Minnesota and to the appointment of the commissioner as agent for service of process. The  
20.21 commissioner may require that consent for service of process be provided to the  
20.22 commissioner and included in each reinsurance agreement. Nothing in this subdivision shall  
20.23 limit or in any way alter the capacity of parties to a reinsurance agreement to agree to  
20.24 alternative dispute resolution mechanisms, except to the extent such agreements are  
20.25 unenforceable under applicable insolvency or delinquency laws;

20.26 (iii) the assuming insurer must consent in writing to pay all final judgments, wherever  
20.27 enforcement is sought, obtained by a ceding insurer or its legal successor, that have been  
20.28 declared enforceable in the jurisdiction where the judgment was obtained;

20.29 (iv) each reinsurance agreement must include a provision requiring the assuming insurer  
20.30 to provide security in an amount equal to 100 percent of the assuming insurer's liabilities  
20.31 attributable to reinsurance ceded pursuant to that agreement if the assuming insurer resists  
20.32 enforcement of a final judgment that is enforceable under the law of the jurisdiction in which

21.1 it was obtained or a properly enforceable arbitration award, whether obtained by the ceding  
21.2 insurer or by its legal successor on behalf of its resolution estate;

21.3 (v) the assuming insurer must confirm that it is not presently participating in any solvent  
21.4 scheme of arrangement which involves this state's ceding insurers, and agree to notify the  
21.5 ceding insurer and the commissioner and to provide security in an amount equal to 100  
21.6 percent of the assuming insurer's liabilities to the ceding insurer, should the assuming insurer  
21.7 enter into such a solvent scheme of arrangement. The security shall be in a form consistent  
21.8 with sections 60A.092, subdivision 10, 60A.093, 60A.096, and 60A.097. For purposes of  
21.9 this section, the term "solvent scheme of arrangement" means a foreign or alien statutory  
21.10 or regulatory compromise procedure subject to requisite majority creditor approval and  
21.11 judicial sanction in the assuming insurer's home jurisdiction either to finally commute  
21.12 liabilities of duly noticed classed members or creditors of a solvent debtor, or to reorganize  
21.13 or restructure the debts and obligations of a solvent debtor on a final basis, and which may  
21.14 be subject to judicial recognition and enforcement of the arrangement by a governing  
21.15 authority outside the ceding insurer's home jurisdiction; and

21.16 (vi) the assuming insurer must agree in writing to meet the applicable information filing  
21.17 requirements set forth in clause (5);

21.18 (5) the assuming insurer or its legal successor must provide, if requested by the  
21.19 commissioner, on behalf of itself and any legal predecessors, the following documentation  
21.20 to the commissioner:

21.21 (i) for the two years preceding entry into the reinsurance agreement and on an annual  
21.22 basis thereafter, the assuming insurer's annual audited financial statements, in accordance  
21.23 with the applicable law of the jurisdiction of its head office or domiciliary jurisdiction, as  
21.24 applicable, including the external audit report;

21.25 (ii) for the two years preceding entry into the reinsurance agreement, the solvency and  
21.26 financial condition report or actuarial opinion, if filed with the assuming insurer's supervisor;

21.27 (iii) prior to entry into the reinsurance agreement and not more than semiannually  
21.28 thereafter, an updated list of all disputed and overdue reinsurance claims outstanding for  
21.29 90 days or more, regarding reinsurance assumed from ceding insurers domiciled in the  
21.30 United States; and

21.31 (iv) prior to entry into the reinsurance agreement and not more than semiannually  
21.32 thereafter, information regarding the assuming insurer's assumed reinsurance by ceding  
21.33 insurer, ceded reinsurance by the assuming insurer, and reinsurance recoverable on paid

22.1 and unpaid losses by the assuming insurer to allow for the evaluation of the criteria set forth  
22.2 in clause (6);

22.3 (6) the assuming insurer must maintain a practice of prompt payment of claims under  
22.4 reinsurance agreements. The lack of prompt payment will be evidenced if any of the  
22.5 following criteria is met:

22.6 (i) more than 15 percent of the reinsurance recoverables from the assuming insurer are  
22.7 overdue and in dispute as reported to the commissioner;

22.8 (ii) more than 15 percent of the assuming insurer's ceding insurers or reinsurers have  
22.9 overdue reinsurance recoverable on paid losses of 90 days or more which are not in dispute  
22.10 and which exceed for each ceding insurer \$100,000, or as otherwise specified in a covered  
22.11 agreement; or

22.12 (iii) the aggregate amount of reinsurance recoverable on paid losses which are not in  
22.13 dispute, but are overdue by 90 days or more, exceeds \$50,000,000, or as otherwise specified  
22.14 in a covered agreement;

22.15 (7) the assuming insurer's supervisory authority must confirm to the commissioner by  
22.16 December 31, 2021, and annually thereafter, or at the annual date otherwise statutorily  
22.17 reported to the reciprocal jurisdiction, that the assuming insurer complies with the  
22.18 requirements set forth in clauses (2) and (3); and

22.19 (8) nothing in this subdivision precludes an assuming insurer from providing the  
22.20 commissioner with information on a voluntary basis.

22.21 (b) The commissioner shall timely create and publish a list of reciprocal jurisdictions.  
22.22 The commissioner's list shall include any reciprocal jurisdiction as defined under paragraph  
22.23 (a), clause (1), items (i) and (ii), and shall consider any other reciprocal jurisdiction included  
22.24 on the NAIC list. The commissioner may approve a jurisdiction that does not appear on the  
22.25 NAIC list of reciprocal jurisdictions in accordance with criteria developed under rules issued  
22.26 by the commissioner. The commissioner may remove a jurisdiction from the list of reciprocal  
22.27 jurisdictions upon a determination that the jurisdiction no longer meets the requirements of  
22.28 a reciprocal jurisdiction, in accordance with a process set forth in rules issued by the  
22.29 commissioner, except that the commissioner shall not remove from the list a reciprocal  
22.30 jurisdiction as defined under paragraph (a), clause (1), items (i) and (ii). Upon removal of  
22.31 a reciprocal jurisdiction from the list, credit for reinsurance ceded to an assuming insurer  
22.32 which has its home office or is domiciled in that jurisdiction shall be allowed, if otherwise  
22.33 allowed pursuant to law.

23.1 (c) The commissioner shall timely create and publish a list of assuming insurers that  
23.2 have satisfied the conditions set forth in this subdivision and to which cessions shall be  
23.3 granted credit in accordance with this subdivision. The commissioner may add an assuming  
23.4 insurer to the list if an NAIC accredited jurisdiction has added the assuming insurer to a list  
23.5 of assuming insurers or if, upon initial eligibility, the assuming insurer submits the  
23.6 information to the commissioner as required under paragraph (a), clause (4), and complies  
23.7 with any additional requirements that the commissioner may impose by rule, except to the  
23.8 extent that they conflict with an applicable covered agreement.

23.9 (i) If an NAIC-accredited jurisdiction has determined that the conditions set forth in  
23.10 paragraph (a), clause (2), have been met, the commissioner has the discretion to defer to  
23.11 that jurisdiction's determination, and add such assuming insurer to the list of assuming  
23.12 insurers to which cessions shall be granted credit in accordance with this paragraph. The  
23.13 commissioner may accept financial documentation filed with another NAIC-accredited  
23.14 jurisdiction or with the NAIC in satisfaction of the requirements of paragraph (a), clause  
23.15 (2);

23.16 (ii) When requesting that the commissioner defer to another NAIC-accredited  
23.17 jurisdiction's determination, an assuming insurer must submit a properly executed Form  
23.18 RJ-1 and additional information as the commissioner may require. A state that has received  
23.19 such a request will notify other states through the NAIC Committee Process and provide  
23.20 relevant information with respect to the determination of eligibility.

23.21 (d) If the commissioner determines that an assuming insurer no longer meets one or  
23.22 more of the requirements under this subdivision, the commissioner may revoke or suspend  
23.23 the eligibility of the assuming insurer for recognition under this subdivision in accordance  
23.24 with procedures set forth in rule. While an assuming insurer's eligibility is suspended, no  
23.25 reinsurance agreement issued, amended, or renewed after the effective date of the suspension  
23.26 qualifies for credit, except to the extent that the assuming insurer's obligations under the  
23.27 contract are secured in accordance with this section. If an assuming insurer's eligibility is  
23.28 revoked, no credit for reinsurance may be granted after the effective date of the revocation  
23.29 with respect to any reinsurance agreements entered into by the assuming insurer, including  
23.30 reinsurance agreements entered into prior to the date of revocation, except to the extent that  
23.31 the assuming insurer's obligations under the contract are secured in a form acceptable to  
23.32 the commissioner and consistent with the provisions of this section.

23.33 (e) Before denying statement credit or imposing a requirement to post security with  
23.34 respect to paragraph (d) or adopting any similar requirement that will have substantially the  
23.35 same regulatory impact as security, the commissioner shall:

24.1       (1) communicate with the ceding insurer, the assuming insurer, and the assuming insurer's  
24.2       supervisory authority that the assuming insurer no longer satisfies one of the conditions  
24.3       listed in paragraph (a), clause (2);

24.4       (2) provide the assuming insurer with 30 days from the initial communication to submit  
24.5       a plan to remedy the defect, and 90 days from the initial communication to remedy the  
24.6       defect, except in exceptional circumstances in which a shorter period is necessary for  
24.7       policyholder and other consumer protection;

24.8       (3) after the expiration of 90 days or less, as set out in clause (2), if the commissioner  
24.9       determines that no or insufficient action was taken by the assuming insurer, the commissioner  
24.10       may impose any of the requirements as set out in this paragraph; and

24.11       (4) provide a written explanation to the assuming insurer of any of the requirements set  
24.12       out in this paragraph.

24.13       (f) If subject to a legal process of rehabilitation, liquidation, or conservation, as applicable,  
24.14       the ceding insurer, or its representative, may seek and, if determined appropriate by the  
24.15       court in which the proceedings are pending, may obtain an order requiring that the assuming  
24.16       insurer post security for all outstanding ceded liabilities.

24.17       (g) Nothing in this subdivision limits or in any way alters the capacity of parties to a  
24.18       reinsurance agreement to agree on requirements for security or other terms in the reinsurance  
24.19       agreement, except as expressly prohibited by applicable law or rule.

24.20       (h) Credit may be taken under this subdivision only for reinsurance agreements entered  
24.21       into, amended, or renewed on or after the effective date of this subdivision, and only with  
24.22       respect to losses incurred and reserves reported on or after the later of: (1) the date on which  
24.23       the assuming insurer has met all eligibility requirements pursuant to this subdivision; and  
24.24       (2) the effective date of the new reinsurance agreement, amendment, or renewal. This  
24.25       paragraph does not alter or impair a ceding insurer's right to take credit for reinsurance, to  
24.26       the extent that credit is not available under this subdivision, as long as the reinsurance  
24.27       qualifies for credit under any other applicable provision of law. Nothing in this subdivision  
24.28       shall authorize an assuming insurer to withdraw or reduce the security provided under any  
24.29       reinsurance agreement, except as permitted by the terms of the agreement. Nothing in this  
24.30       subdivision shall limit, or in any way alter, the capacity of parties to any reinsurance  
24.31       agreement to renegotiate the agreement.

24.32       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022, and applies to reinsurance  
24.33       contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.

25.1        Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 60A.0921, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

25.2        **Subd. 2. Certification procedure.** (a) The commissioner shall post notice on the  
25.3        department's website promptly upon receipt of any application for certification, including  
25.4        instructions on how members of the public may respond to the application. The commissioner  
25.5        may not take final action on the application until at least 30 days after posting the notice.

25.6        (b) The commissioner shall issue written notice to an assuming insurer that has applied  
25.7        and been approved as a certified reinsurer. The notice must include the rating assigned the  
25.8        certified reinsurer in accordance with subdivision 1. The commissioner shall publish a list  
25.9        of all certified reinsurers and their ratings.

25.10        (c) In order to be eligible for certification, the assuming insurer must:

25.11        (1) be domiciled and licensed to transact insurance or reinsurance in a qualified  
25.12        jurisdiction, as determined by the commissioner under subdivision 3;

25.13        (2) maintain capital and surplus, or its equivalent, of no less than \$250,000,000 calculated  
25.14        in accordance with paragraph (d), clause (8). This requirement may also be satisfied by an  
25.15        association including incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters having  
25.16        minimum capital and surplus equivalents net of liabilities of at least \$250,000,000 and a  
25.17        central fund containing a balance of at least \$250,000,000;

25.18        (3) maintain financial strength ratings from two or more rating agencies acceptable to  
25.19        the commissioner. These ratings shall be based on interactive communication between the  
25.20        rating agency and the assuming insurer and shall not be based solely on publicly available  
25.21        information. These financial strength ratings shall be one factor used by the commissioner  
25.22        in determining the rating that is assigned to the assuming insurer. Acceptable rating agencies  
25.23        include the following:

25.24        (i) Standard & Poor's;

25.25        (ii) Moody's Investors Service;

25.26        (iii) Fitch Ratings;

25.27        (iv) A.M. Best Company; or

25.28        (v) any other nationally recognized statistical rating organization; and

25.29        (4) ensure that the certified reinsurer complies with any other requirements reasonably  
25.30        imposed by the commissioner.

25.31        (d) Each certified reinsurer shall be rated on a legal entity basis, with due consideration  
25.32        being given to the group rating where appropriate, except that an association including

26.1 incorporated and individual unincorporated underwriters that has been approved to do  
26.2 business as a single certified reinsurer may be evaluated on the basis of its group rating.  
26.3 Factors that may be considered as part of the evaluation process include, but are not limited  
26.4 to:

26.5 (1) certified reinsurer's financial strength rating from an acceptable rating agency. The  
26.6 maximum rating that a certified reinsurer may be assigned will correspond to its financial  
26.7 strength rating as outlined in the table below. The commissioner shall use the lowest financial  
26.8 strength rating received from an approved rating agency in establishing the maximum rating  
26.9 of a certified reinsurer. A failure to obtain or maintain at least two financial strength ratings  
26.10 from acceptable rating agencies will result in loss of eligibility for certification;

Ratings	Best	S&P	Moody's	Fitch
Secure - 1	A++	AAA	Aaa	AAA
Secure - 2	A+	AA+, AA, AA-	Aa1, Aa2, Aa3	AA+, AA, AA-
Secure - 3	A	A+, A	A1, A2	A+, A
Secure - 4	A-	A-	A3	A-
Secure - 5	B++, B-	BBB+, BBB, BBB-	Baa1, Baa2, Baa3	BBB+, BBB, BBB-
Vulnerable - 6	B, B-C++, C+, C, C-, D, E, F	BB+, BB, BB-, B+, B, B-, CCC, CC, C, D, R	Ba1, Ba2, Ba3, B1, B2, B3, Caa, B+, B, B-, CCC+, Ca, C	BB+, BB, BB-, B+, B, B-, CCC+, CC, CCC-, DD

26.21 (2) the business practices of the certified reinsurer in dealing with its ceding insurers,  
26.22 including its record of compliance with reinsurance contractual terms and obligations;

26.23 (3) for certified reinsurers domiciled in the United States, a review of the most recent  
26.24 applicable NAIC annual statement;

26.25 (4) for certified reinsurers not domiciled in the United States, a review annually of such  
26.26 forms as may be required by the commissioner;

26.27 (5) the reputation of the certified reinsurer for prompt payment of claims under  
26.28 reinsurance agreements, based on an analysis of ceding insurers' reporting of overdue  
26.29 reinsurance recoverables, including the proportion of obligations that are more than 90 days  
26.30 past due or are in dispute, with specific attention given to obligations payable to companies  
26.31 that are in administrative supervision or receivership;

26.32 (6) regulatory actions against the certified reinsurer;

26.33 (7) the report of the independent auditor on the financial statements of the insurance  
26.34 enterprise, on the basis described in clause (8);

27.1       (8) for certified reinsurers not domiciled in the United States, audited financial statements  
27.2       (audited United States GAAP basis if available, audited IFRS basis statements are allowed,  
27.3       but must include an audited footnote reconciling equity and net income to a United States  
27.4       GAAP basis, or, with permission of the commissioner, audited IFRS statements with  
27.5       reconciliation to United States GAAP certified by an officer of the company). Upon the  
27.6       initial application for certification, the commissioner will consider audited financial  
27.7       statements for the last three two years filed with its non-United States jurisdiction supervisor;

27.8       (9) the liquidation priority of obligations to a ceding insurer in the certified reinsurer's  
27.9       domiciliary jurisdiction in the context of an insolvency proceeding;

27.10       (10) a certified reinsurer's participation in any solvent scheme of arrangement, or similar  
27.11       procedure, which involves United States ceding insurers. The commissioner must receive  
27.12       prior notice from a certified reinsurer that proposes participation by the certified reinsurer  
27.13       in a solvent scheme of arrangement; and

27.14       (11) other information as determined by the commissioner.

27.15       (e) Based on the analysis conducted under paragraph (d), clause (5), of a certified  
27.16       reinsurer's reputation for prompt payment of claims, the commissioner may make appropriate  
27.17       adjustments in the security the certified reinsurer is required to post to protect its liabilities  
27.18       to United States ceding insurers, provided that the commissioner shall, at a minimum,  
27.19       increase the security the certified reinsurer is required to post by one rating level under  
27.20       paragraph (d), clause (1), if the commissioner finds that:

27.21       (1) more than 15 percent of the certified reinsurer's ceding insurance clients have overdue  
27.22       reinsurance recoverables on paid losses of 90 days or more which are not in dispute and  
27.23       which exceed \$100,000 for each cedent; or

27.24       (2) the aggregate amount of reinsurance recoverables on paid losses which are not in  
27.25       dispute that are overdue by 90 days or more exceeds \$50,000,000.

27.26       (f) The assuming insurer must submit such forms as required by the commissioner as  
27.27       evidence of its submission to the jurisdiction of this state, appoint the commissioner as an  
27.28       agent for service of process in this state, and agree to provide security for 100 percent of  
27.29       the assuming insurer's liabilities attributable to reinsurance ceded by United States ceding  
27.30       insurers if it resists enforcement of a final United States judgment. The commissioner shall  
27.31       not certify an assuming insurer that is domiciled in a jurisdiction that the commissioner has  
27.32       determined does not adequately and promptly enforce final United States judgments or  
27.33       arbitration awards.

28.1       (g) The certified reinsurer must agree to meet filing requirements as determined by the  
28.2       commissioner, both with respect to an initial application for certification and on an ongoing  
28.3       basis. All data submitted by certified reinsurers to the commissioner is nonpublic under  
28.4       section 13.02, subdivision 9. The certified reinsurer must file with the commissioner:

28.5       (1) a notification within ten days of any regulatory actions taken against the certified  
28.6       reinsurer, any change in the provisions of its domiciliary license, or any change in rating  
28.7       by an approved rating agency, including a statement describing such changes and the reasons  
28.8       therefore;

28.9       (2) an annual report regarding reinsurance assumed, in a form determined by the  
28.10      commissioner;

28.11       (3) an annual report of the independent auditor on the financial statements of the insurance  
28.12      enterprise, on the basis described in clause (4);

28.13       (4) an annual audited financial statement, regulatory filings, and actuarial opinion filed  
28.14      with the certified reinsurer's supervisor. Upon the initial certification, audited financial  
28.15      statements for the last ~~three~~ two years filed with the certified reinsurer's supervisor;

28.16       (5) at least annually, an updated list of all disputed and overdue reinsurance claims  
28.17      regarding reinsurance assumed from United States domestic ceding insurers;

28.18       (6) a certification from the certified reinsurer's domestic regulator that the certified  
28.19      reinsurer is in good standing and maintains capital in excess of the jurisdiction's highest  
28.20      regulatory action level; and

28.21       (7) any other relevant information as determined by the commissioner.

28.22       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022, and applies to reinsurance  
28.23      contracts entered into or renewed on or after that date.

28.24       Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 60A.14, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

28.25       Subdivision 1. **Fees other than examination fees.** In addition to the fees and charges  
28.26      provided for examinations, the following fees must be paid to the commissioner for deposit  
28.27      in the general fund:

28.28       (a) by township mutual fire insurance companies:

28.29       (1) for filing certificate of incorporation \$25 and amendments thereto, \$10;

28.30       (2) for filing annual statements, \$15;

28.31       (3) for each annual certificate of authority, \$15;

29.1 (4) for filing bylaws \$25 and amendments thereto, \$10;

29.2 (b) by other domestic and foreign companies including fraternals and reciprocal  
29.3 exchanges:

29.4 (1) for filing an application for an initial certification of authority to be admitted to  
29.5 transact business in this state, \$1,500;

29.6 (2) for filing certified copy of certificate of articles of incorporation, \$100;

29.7 (3) for filing annual statement, ~~\$225~~ \$300;

29.8 (4) for filing certified copy of amendment to certificate or articles of incorporation, \$100;

29.9 (5) for filing bylaws, \$75 or amendments thereto, \$75;

29.10 (6) for each company's certificate of authority, ~~\$575~~ \$750, annually;

29.11 (c) the following general fees apply:

29.12 (1) for each certificate, including certified copy of certificate of authority, renewal,  
29.13 valuation of life policies, corporate condition or qualification, \$25;

29.14 (2) for each copy of paper on file in the commissioner's office 50 cents per page, and  
29.15 \$2.50 for certifying the same;

29.16 (3) for license to procure insurance in unadmitted foreign companies, \$575;

29.17 (4) for valuing the policies of life insurance companies, ~~one cent~~ two cents per \$1,000  
29.18 of insurance so valued, provided that the fee shall not exceed ~~\$13,000~~ \$26,000 per year for  
29.19 any company. The commissioner may, in lieu of a valuation of the policies of any foreign  
29.20 life insurance company admitted, or applying for admission, to do business in this state,  
29.21 accept a certificate of valuation from the company's own actuary or from the commissioner  
29.22 of insurance of the state or territory in which the company is domiciled;

29.23 (5) for receiving and filing certificates of policies by the company's actuary, or by the  
29.24 commissioner of insurance of any other state or territory, \$50;

29.25 (6) for each appointment of an agent filed with the commissioner, \$30;

29.26 (7) for filing forms, rates, and compliance certifications under section 60A.315, \$140  
29.27 per filing, or \$125 per filing when submitted via electronic filing system. Filing fees may  
29.28 be paid on a quarterly basis in response to an invoice. Billing and payment may be made  
29.29 electronically;

29.30 (8) for annual renewal of surplus lines insurer license, ~~\$300~~ \$400.

30.1      The commissioner shall adopt rules to define filings that are subject to a fee.

30.2      **Sec. 5. [60A.985] DEFINITIONS.**

30.3      Subdivision 1. **Terms.** As used in sections 60A.985 to 60A.9857, the following terms  
30.4      have the meanings given.

30.5      Subd. 2. **Authorized individual.** "Authorized individual" means an individual known  
30.6      to and screened by the licensee and determined to be necessary and appropriate to have  
30.7      access to the nonpublic information held by the licensee and its information systems.

30.8      Subd. 3. **Consumer.** "Consumer" means an individual, including but not limited to an  
30.9      applicant, policyholder, insured, beneficiary, claimant, and certificate holder who is a resident  
30.10      of this state and whose nonpublic information is in a licensee's possession, custody, or  
30.11      control.

30.12      Subd. 4. **Cybersecurity event.** "Cybersecurity event" means an event resulting in  
30.13      unauthorized access to, or disruption or misuse of, an information system or nonpublic  
30.14      information stored on an information system.

30.15      Cybersecurity event does not include the unauthorized acquisition of encrypted nonpublic  
30.16      information if the encryption, process, or key is not also acquired, released, or used without  
30.17      authorization.

30.18      Cybersecurity event does not include an event with regard to which the licensee has  
30.19      determined that the nonpublic information accessed by an unauthorized person has not been  
30.20      used or released and has been returned or destroyed.

30.21      Subd. 5. **Encrypted.** "Encrypted" means the transformation of data into a form which  
30.22      results in a low probability of assigning meaning without the use of a protective process or  
30.23      key.

30.24      Subd. 6. **Information security program.** "Information security program" means the  
30.25      administrative, technical, and physical safeguards that a licensee uses to access, collect,  
30.26      distribute, process, protect, store, use, transmit, dispose of, or otherwise handle nonpublic  
30.27      information.

30.28      Subd. 7. **Information system.** "Information system" means a discrete set of electronic  
30.29      information resources organized for the collection, processing, maintenance, use, sharing,  
30.30      dissemination, or disposition of nonpublic electronic information, as well as any specialized  
30.31      system such as industrial or process controls systems, telephone switching and private  
30.32      branch exchange systems, and environmental control systems.

31.1        Subd. 8. **Licensee.** "Licensee" means any person licensed, authorized to operate, or  
31.2        registered, or required to be licensed, authorized, or registered by the Department of  
31.3        Commerce or the Department of Health under chapters 59A to 62M and 62Q to 79A.

31.4        Subd. 9. **Multifactor authentication.** "Multifactor authentication" means authentication  
31.5        through verification of at least two of the following types of authentication factors:

31.6        (1) knowledge factors, such as a password;

31.7        (2) possession factors, such as a token or text message on a mobile phone; or

31.8        (3) inherence factors, such as a biometric characteristic.

31.9        Subd. 10. **Nonpublic information.** "Nonpublic information" means electronic information  
31.10        that is not publicly available information and is:

31.11        (1) any information concerning a consumer which because of name, number, personal  
31.12        mark, or other identifier can be used to identify the consumer, in combination with any one  
31.13        or more of the following data elements:

31.14        (i) Social Security number;

31.15        (ii) driver's license number or nondriver identification card number;

31.16        (iii) financial account number, credit card number, or debit card number;

31.17        (iv) any security code, access code, or password that would permit access to a consumer's  
31.18        financial account; or

31.19        (v) biometric records; or

31.20        (2) any information or data, except age or gender, in any form or medium created by or  
31.21        derived from a health care provider or a consumer that can be used to identify a particular  
31.22        consumer and that relates to:

31.23        (i) the past, present, or future physical, mental, or behavioral health or condition of any  
31.24        consumer or a member of the consumer's family;

31.25        (ii) the provision of health care to any consumer; or

31.26        (iii) payment for the provision of health care to any consumer.

31.27        Subd. 11. **Person.** "Person" means any individual or any nongovernmental entity,  
31.28        including but not limited to any nongovernmental partnership, corporation, branch, agency,  
31.29        or association.

32.1        **Subd. 12. Publicly available information.** "Publicly available information" means any  
32.2        information that a licensee has a reasonable basis to believe is lawfully made available to  
32.3        the general public from: federal, state, or local government records; widely distributed  
32.4        media; or disclosures to the general public that are required to be made by federal, state, or  
32.5        local law.

32.6        For the purposes of this definition, a licensee has a reasonable basis to believe that  
32.7        information is lawfully made available to the general public if the licensee has taken steps  
32.8        to determine:

32.9        (1) that the information is of the type that is available to the general public; and

32.10       (2) whether a consumer can direct that the information not be made available to the  
32.11       general public and, if so, that such consumer has not done so.

32.12       **Subd. 13. Risk assessment.** "Risk assessment" means the risk assessment that each  
32.13       licensee is required to conduct under section 60A.9853, subdivision 3.

32.14       **Subd. 14. State.** "State" means the state of Minnesota.

32.15       **Subd. 15. Third-party service provider.** "Third-party service provider" means a person,  
32.16       not otherwise defined as a licensee, that contracts with a licensee to maintain, process, or  
32.17       store nonpublic information, or is otherwise permitted access to nonpublic information  
32.18       through its provision of services to the licensee.

32.19       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

32.20       **Sec. 6. [60A.9851] INFORMATION SECURITY PROGRAM.**

32.21       **Subdivision 1. Implementation of an information security program.** Commensurate  
32.22       with the size and complexity of the licensee, the nature and scope of the licensee's activities,  
32.23       including its use of third-party service providers, and the sensitivity of the nonpublic  
32.24       information used by the licensee or in the licensee's possession, custody, or control, each  
32.25       licensee shall develop, implement, and maintain a comprehensive written information  
32.26       security program based on the licensee's risk assessment and that contains administrative,  
32.27       technical, and physical safeguards for the protection of nonpublic information and the  
32.28       licensee's information system.

32.29       **Subd. 2. Objectives of an information security program.** A licensee's information  
32.30       security program shall be designed to:

32.31       (1) protect the security and confidentiality of nonpublic information and the security of  
32.32       the information system;

33.1        (2) protect against any threats or hazards to the security or integrity of nonpublic  
33.2        information and the information system;  
  
33.3        (3) protect against unauthorized access to, or use of, nonpublic information, and minimize  
33.4        the likelihood of harm to any consumer; and  
  
33.5        (4) define and periodically reevaluate a schedule for retention of nonpublic information  
33.6        and a mechanism for its destruction when no longer needed.

33.7        Subd. 3. Risk assessment. The licensee shall:

33.8        (1) designate one or more employees, an affiliate, or an outside vendor authorized to act  
33.9        on behalf of the licensee who is responsible for the information security program;

33.10        (2) identify reasonably foreseeable internal or external threats that could result in  
33.11        unauthorized access, transmission, disclosure, misuse, alteration, or destruction of nonpublic  
33.12        information, including threats to the security of information systems and nonpublic  
33.13        information that are accessible to, or held by, third-party service providers;

33.14        (3) assess the likelihood and potential damage of the threats identified pursuant to clause  
33.15        (2), taking into consideration the sensitivity of the nonpublic information;

33.16        (4) assess the sufficiency of policies, procedures, information systems, and other  
33.17        safeguards in place to manage these threats, including consideration of threats in each  
33.18        relevant area of the licensee's operations, including:

33.19        (i) employee training and management;

33.20        (ii) information systems, including network and software design, as well as information  
33.21        classification, governance, processing, storage, transmission, and disposal; and

33.22        (iii) detecting, preventing, and responding to attacks, intrusions, or other systems failures;  
33.23        and

33.24        (5) implement information safeguards to manage the threats identified in its ongoing  
33.25        assessment, and no less than annually, assess the effectiveness of the safeguards' key controls,  
33.26        systems, and procedures.

33.27        Subd. 4. Risk management. Based on its risk assessment, the licensee shall:

33.28        (1) design its information security program to mitigate the identified risks, commensurate  
33.29        with the size and complexity of the licensee, the nature and scope of the licensee's activities,  
33.30        including its use of third-party service providers, and the sensitivity of the nonpublic  
33.31        information used by the licensee or in the licensee's possession, custody, or control;

34.1        (2) determine which of the following security measures are appropriate and implement  
34.2        any appropriate security measures:

34.3        (i) place access controls on information systems, including controls to authenticate and  
34.4        permit access only to authorized individuals, to protect against the unauthorized acquisition  
34.5        of nonpublic information;

34.6        (ii) identify and manage the data, personnel, devices, systems, and facilities that enable  
34.7        the organization to achieve business purposes in accordance with their relative importance  
34.8        to business objectives and the organization's risk strategy;

34.9        (iii) restrict physical access to nonpublic information to authorized individuals only;

34.10        (iv) protect, by encryption or other appropriate means, all nonpublic information while  
34.11        being transmitted over an external network and all nonpublic information stored on a laptop  
34.12        computer or other portable computing or storage device or media;

34.13        (v) adopt secure development practices for in-house developed applications utilized by  
34.14        the licensee;

34.15        (vi) modify the information system in accordance with the licensee's information security  
34.16        program;

34.17        (vii) utilize effective controls, which may include multifactor authentication procedures  
34.18        for any authorized individual accessing nonpublic information;

34.19        (viii) regularly test and monitor systems and procedures to detect actual and attempted  
34.20        attacks on, or intrusions into, information systems;

34.21        (ix) include audit trails within the information security program designed to detect and  
34.22        respond to cybersecurity events and designed to reconstruct material financial transactions  
34.23        sufficient to support normal operations and obligations of the licensee;

34.24        (x) implement measures to protect against destruction, loss, or damage of nonpublic  
34.25        information due to environmental hazards, such as fire and water damage, other catastrophes,  
34.26        or technological failures; and

34.27        (xi) develop, implement, and maintain procedures for the secure disposal of nonpublic  
34.28        information in any format;

34.29        (3) include cybersecurity risks in the licensee's enterprise risk management process;

34.30        (4) stay informed regarding emerging threats or vulnerabilities and utilize reasonable  
34.31        security measures when sharing information relative to the character of the sharing and the  
34.32        type of information shared; and

35.1        (5) provide its personnel with cybersecurity awareness training that is updated as  
35.2        necessary to reflect risks identified by the licensee in the risk assessment.

35.3        Subd. 5. Oversight by board of directors. If the licensee has a board of directors, the  
35.4        board or an appropriate committee of the board shall, at a minimum:

35.5        (1) require the licensee's executive management or its delegates to develop, implement,  
35.6        and maintain the licensee's information security program;

35.7        (2) require the licensee's executive management or its delegates to report in writing, at  
35.8        least annually, the following information:

35.9        (i) the overall status of the information security program and the licensee's compliance  
35.10        with this act; and

35.11        (ii) material matters related to the information security program, addressing issues such  
35.12        as risk assessment, risk management and control decisions, third-party service provider  
35.13        arrangements, results of testing, cybersecurity events or violations and management's  
35.14        responses thereto, and recommendations for changes in the information security program;  
35.15        and

35.16        (3) if executive management delegates any of its responsibilities under this section, it  
35.17        shall oversee the development, implementation, and maintenance of the licensee's information  
35.18        security program prepared by the delegate and shall receive a report from the delegate  
35.19        complying with the requirements of the report to the board of directors.

35.20        Subd. 6. Oversight of third-party service provider arrangements. (a) A licensee shall  
35.21        exercise due diligence in selecting its third-party service provider.

35.22        (b) A licensee shall require a third-party service provider to implement appropriate  
35.23        administrative, technical, and physical measures to protect and secure the information  
35.24        systems and nonpublic information that are accessible to, or held by, the third-party service  
35.25        provider.

35.26        Subd. 7. Program adjustments. The licensee shall monitor, evaluate, and adjust, as  
35.27        appropriate, the information security program consistent with any relevant changes in  
35.28        technology, the sensitivity of its nonpublic information, internal or external threats to  
35.29        information, and the licensee's own changing business arrangements, such as mergers and  
35.30        acquisitions, alliances and joint ventures, outsourcing arrangements, and changes to  
35.31        information systems.

35.32        Subd. 8. Incident response plan. (a) As part of its information security program, each  
35.33        licensee shall establish a written incident response plan designed to promptly respond to,

36.1 and recover from, any cybersecurity event that compromises the confidentiality, integrity,  
36.2 or availability of nonpublic information in its possession, the licensee's information systems,  
36.3 or the continuing functionality of any aspect of the licensee's business or operations.

36.4 (b) The incident response plan shall address the following areas:

36.5 (1) the internal process for responding to a cybersecurity event;  
36.6 (2) the goals of the incident response plan;  
36.7 (3) the definition of clear roles, responsibilities, and levels of decision-making authority;  
36.8 (4) external and internal communications and information sharing;  
36.9 (5) identification of requirements for the remediation of any identified weaknesses in  
36.10 information systems and associated controls;  
36.11 (6) documentation and reporting regarding cybersecurity events and related incident  
36.12 response activities; and  
36.13 (7) the evaluation and revision, as necessary, of the incident response plan following a  
36.14 cybersecurity event.

36.15 Subd. 9. Annual certification to commissioner. (a) Subject to paragraph (b), by April  
36.16 15 of each year, an insurer domiciled in this state shall certify in writing to the commissioner  
36.17 that the insurer is in compliance with the requirements set forth in this section. Each insurer  
36.18 shall maintain all records, schedules, and data supporting this certificate for a period of five  
36.19 years and shall permit examination by the commissioner. To the extent an insurer has  
36.20 identified areas, systems, or processes that require material improvement, updating, or  
36.21 redesign, the insurer shall document the identification and the remedial efforts planned and  
36.22 underway to address such areas, systems, or processes. Such documentation must be available  
36.23 for inspection by the commissioner.

36.24 (b) The commissioner must post on the department's website, no later than 60 days prior  
36.25 to the certification required by paragraph (a), the form and manner of submission required  
36.26 and any instructions necessary to prepare the certification.

36.27 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021. Licensees have one year  
36.28 from the effective date to implement subdivisions 1 to 5 and 7 to 9, and two years from the  
36.29 effective date to implement subdivision 6.

37.1 **Sec. 7. [60A.9852] INVESTIGATION OF A CYBERSECURITY EVENT.**

37.2 Subdivision 1. Prompt investigation. If the licensee learns that a cybersecurity event  
37.3 has or may have occurred, the licensee, or an outside vendor or service provider designated  
37.4 to act on behalf of the licensee, shall conduct a prompt investigation.

37.5 Subd. 2. Investigation contents. During the investigation, the licensee, or an outside  
37.6 vendor or service provider designated to act on behalf of the licensee, shall, at a minimum  
37.7 and to the extent possible:

37.8 (1) determine whether a cybersecurity event has occurred;

37.9 (2) assess the nature and scope of the cybersecurity event, if any;

37.10 (3) identify whether any nonpublic information was involved in the cybersecurity event  
37.11 and, if so, what nonpublic information was involved; and

37.12 (4) perform or oversee reasonable measures to restore the security of the information  
37.13 systems compromised in the cybersecurity event in order to prevent further unauthorized  
37.14 acquisition, release, or use of nonpublic information in the licensee's possession, custody,  
37.15 or control.

37.16 Subd. 3. Third-party systems. If the licensee learns that a cybersecurity event has or  
37.17 may have occurred in a system maintained by a third-party service provider, the licensee  
37.18 will complete the steps listed in subdivision 2 or confirm and document that the third-party  
37.19 service provider has completed those steps.

37.20 Subd. 4. Records. The licensee shall maintain records concerning all cybersecurity  
37.21 events for a period of at least five years from the date of the cybersecurity event and shall  
37.22 produce those records upon demand of the commissioner.

37.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

37.24 **Sec. 8. [60A.9853] NOTIFICATION OF A CYBERSECURITY EVENT.**

37.25 Subdivision 1. Notification to the commissioner. Each licensee shall notify the  
37.26 commissioner of commerce or commissioner of health, whichever commissioner otherwise  
37.27 regulates the licensee, without unreasonable delay but in no event later than three business  
37.28 days from a determination that a cybersecurity event has occurred when either of the  
37.29 following criteria has been met:

37.30 (1) this state is the licensee's state of domicile, in the case of an insurer, or this state is  
37.31 the licensee's home state, in the case of a producer, as those terms are defined in chapter  
37.32 60K and the cybersecurity event has a reasonable likelihood of materially harming:

38.1        (i) any consumer residing in this state; or

38.2        (ii) any part of the normal operations of the licensee; or

38.3        (2) the licensee reasonably believes that the nonpublic information involved is of 250

38.4        or more consumers residing in this state and that is either of the following:

38.5        (i) a cybersecurity event impacting the licensee of which notice is required to be provided

38.6        to any government body, self-regulatory agency, or any other supervisory body pursuant

38.7        to any state or federal law; or

38.8        (ii) a cybersecurity event that has a reasonable likelihood of materially harming:

38.9        (A) any consumer residing in this state; or

38.10        (B) any part of the normal operations of the licensee.

38.11        Subd. 2. **Information; notification.** A licensee making the notification required under

38.12        subdivision 1 shall provide the information in electronic form as directed by the

38.13        commissioner. The licensee shall have a continuing obligation to update and supplement

38.14        initial and subsequent notifications to the commissioner concerning material changes to

38.15        previously provided information relating to the cybersecurity event. The licensee shall

38.16        provide as much of the following information as possible:

38.17        (1) date of the cybersecurity event;

38.18        (2) description of how the information was exposed, lost, stolen, or breached, including

38.19        the specific roles and responsibilities of third-party service providers, if any;

38.20        (3) how the cybersecurity event was discovered;

38.21        (4) whether any lost, stolen, or breached information has been recovered and, if so, how

38.22        this was done;

38.23        (5) the identity of the source of the cybersecurity event;

38.24        (6) whether the licensee has filed a police report or has notified any regulatory,

38.25        government, or law enforcement agencies and, if so, when such notification was provided;

38.26        (7) description of the specific types of information acquired without authorization.

38.27        Specific types of information means particular data elements including, for example, types

38.28        of medical information, types of financial information, or types of information allowing

38.29        identification of the consumer;

38.30        (8) the period during which the information system was compromised by the cybersecurity

38.31        event;

39.1        (9) the number of total consumers in this state affected by the cybersecurity event. The  
39.2        licensee shall provide the best estimate in the initial report to the commissioner and update  
39.3        this estimate with each subsequent report to the commissioner pursuant to this section;

39.4        (10) the results of any internal review identifying a lapse in either automated controls  
39.5        or internal procedures, or confirming that all automated controls or internal procedures were  
39.6        followed;

39.7        (11) description of efforts being undertaken to remediate the situation which permitted  
39.8        the cybersecurity event to occur;

39.9        (12) a copy of the licensee's privacy policy and a statement outlining the steps the licensee  
39.10        will take to investigate and notify consumers affected by the cybersecurity event; and

39.11        (13) name of a contact person who is familiar with the cybersecurity event and authorized  
39.12        to act for the licensee.

39.13        **Subd. 3. Notification to consumers.** (a) If a licensee is required to submit a report to  
39.14        the commissioner under subdivision 1, the licensee shall notify any consumer residing in  
39.15        Minnesota if, as a result of the cybersecurity event reported to the commissioner, the  
39.16        consumer's nonpublic information was or is reasonably believed to have been acquired by  
39.17        an unauthorized person, and there is a reasonable likelihood of material harm to the consumer  
39.18        as a result of the cybersecurity event. Consumer notification is not required for a  
39.19        cybersecurity event resulting from the good faith acquisition of nonpublic information by  
39.20        an employee or agent of the licensee for the purposes of the licensee's business, provided  
39.21        the nonpublic information is not used for a purpose other than the licensee's business or  
39.22        subject to further unauthorized disclosure. The notification must be made in the most  
39.23        expedient time possible and without unreasonable delay, consistent with the legitimate needs  
39.24        of law enforcement or with any measures necessary to determine the scope of the breach,  
39.25        identify the individuals affected, and restore the reasonable integrity of the data system.  
39.26        The notification may be delayed to a date certain if the commissioner determines that  
39.27        providing the notice impedes a criminal investigation. The licensee shall provide a copy of  
39.28        the notice to the commissioner.

39.29        (b) For purposes of this subdivision, notice required under paragraph (a) must be provided  
39.30        by one of the following methods:

39.31        (1) written notice to the consumer's most recent address in the licensee's records;

39.32        (2) electronic notice, if the licensee's primary method of communication with the  
39.33        consumer is by electronic means or if the notice provided is consistent with the provisions

40.1 regarding electronic records and signatures in United States Code, title 15, section 7001;

40.2 or

40.3 (3) if the cost of providing notice exceeds \$250,000, the affected class of consumers to  
40.4 be notified exceeds 500,000, or the licensee does not have sufficient contact information  
40.5 for the subject consumers, notice as follows:

40.6 (i) e-mail notice when the licensee has an e-mail address for the subject consumers;

40.7 (ii) conspicuous posting of the notice on the website page of the licensee; and

40.8 (iii) notification to major statewide media.

40.9 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), a licensee that maintains its own notification procedure  
40.10 as part of its information security program that is consistent with the timing requirements  
40.11 of this subdivision is deemed to comply with the notification requirements if the licensee  
40.12 notifies subject consumers in accordance with its program.

40.13 (d) A waiver of the requirements under this subdivision is contrary to public policy, and  
40.14 is void and unenforceable.

40.15 **Subd. 4. Notice regarding cybersecurity events of third-party service providers.** (a)  
40.16 In the case of a cybersecurity event in a system maintained by a third-party service provider,  
40.17 of which the licensee has become aware, the licensee shall treat such event as it would under  
40.18 subdivision 1 unless the third-party service provider provides the notice required under  
40.19 subdivision 1.

40.20 (b) The computation of a licensee's deadlines shall begin on the day after the third-party  
40.21 service provider notifies the licensee of the cybersecurity event or the licensee otherwise  
40.22 has actual knowledge of the cybersecurity event, whichever is sooner.

40.23 (c) Nothing in this act shall prevent or abrogate an agreement between a licensee and  
40.24 another licensee, a third-party service provider, or any other party to fulfill any of the  
40.25 investigation requirements imposed under section 60A.9854 or notice requirements imposed  
40.26 under this section.

40.27 **Subd. 5. Notice regarding cybersecurity events of reinsurers to insurers.** (a) In the  
40.28 case of a cybersecurity event involving nonpublic information that is used by the licensee  
40.29 that is acting as an assuming insurer or in the possession, custody, or control of a licensee  
40.30 that is acting as an assuming insurer and that does not have a direct contractual relationship  
40.31 with the affected consumers, the assuming insurer shall notify its affected ceding insurers  
40.32 and the commissioner of its state of domicile within three business days of making the  
40.33 determination that a cybersecurity event has occurred.

41.1        (b) The ceding insurers that have a direct contractual relationship with affected consumers  
41.2        shall fulfill the consumer notification requirements imposed under subdivision 3 and any  
41.3        other notification requirements relating to a cybersecurity event imposed under this section.

41.4        (c) In the case of a cybersecurity event involving nonpublic information that is in the  
41.5        possession, custody, or control of a third-party service provider of a licensee that is an  
41.6        assuming insurer, the assuming insurer shall notify its affected ceding insurers and the  
41.7        commissioner of its state of domicile within three business days of receiving notice from  
41.8        its third-party service provider that a cybersecurity event has occurred.

41.9        (d) The ceding insurers that have a direct contractual relationship with affected consumers  
41.10       shall fulfill the consumer notification requirements imposed under subdivision 3 and any  
41.11       other notification requirements relating to a cybersecurity event imposed under this section.

41.12       (e) Any licensee acting as an assuming insurer shall have no other notice obligations  
41.13       relating to a cybersecurity event or other data breach under this section.

41.14       **Subd. 6. Notice regarding cybersecurity events of insurers to producers of record.** (a)  
41.15       In the case of a cybersecurity event involving nonpublic information that is in the possession,  
41.16       custody, or control of a licensee that is an insurer or its third-party service provider and for  
41.17       which a consumer accessed the insurer's services through an independent insurance producer,  
41.18       the insurer shall notify the producers of record of all affected consumers no later than the  
41.19       time at which notice is provided to the affected consumers.

41.20       (b) The insurer is excused from this obligation for those instances in which it does not  
41.21       have the current producer of record information for any individual consumer or in those  
41.22       instances in which the producer of record is no longer appointed to sell, solicit, or negotiate  
41.23       on behalf of the insurer.

41.24       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

41.25       **Sec. 9. [60A.9854] POWER OF COMMISSIONER.**

41.26       (a) The commissioner of commerce or commissioner of health, whichever commissioner  
41.27       otherwise regulates the licensee, shall have power to examine and investigate into the affairs  
41.28       of any licensee to determine whether the licensee has been or is engaged in any conduct in  
41.29       violation of sections 60A.985 to 60A.9857. This power is in addition to the powers which  
41.30       the commissioner has under section 60A.031. Any such investigation or examination shall  
41.31       be conducted pursuant to section 60A.031.

41.32       (b) Whenever the commissioner of commerce or commissioner of health has reason to  
41.33       believe that a licensee has been or is engaged in conduct in this state which violates sections

42.1 60A.985 to 60A.9857, the commissioner of commerce or commissioner of health may take  
42.2 action that is necessary or appropriate to enforce those sections.

42.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

42.4 **Sec. 10. [60A.9855] CONFIDENTIALITY.**

42.5 Subdivision 1. **Licensee information.** Any documents, materials, or other information  
42.6 in the control or possession of the department that are furnished by a licensee or an employee  
42.7 or agent thereof acting on behalf of a licensee pursuant to section 60A.9851, subdivision  
42.8 9; section 60A.9853, subdivision 2, clauses (2), (3), (4), (5), (8), (10), and (11); or that are  
42.9 obtained by the commissioner in an investigation or examination pursuant to section  
42.10 60A.9854 shall be classified as confidential, protected nonpublic, or both; shall not be  
42.11 subject to subpoena; and shall not be subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in any  
42.12 private civil action. However, the commissioner is authorized to use the documents, materials,  
42.13 or other information in the furtherance of any regulatory or legal action brought as a part  
42.14 of the commissioner's duties.

42.15 Subd. 2. **Certain testimony prohibited.** Neither the commissioner nor any person who  
42.16 received documents, materials, or other information while acting under the authority of the  
42.17 commissioner shall be permitted or required to testify in any private civil action concerning  
42.18 any confidential documents, materials, or information subject to subdivision 1.

42.19 Subd. 3. **Information sharing.** In order to assist in the performance of the commissioner's  
42.20 duties under this act, the commissioner:

42.21 (1) may share documents, materials, or other information, including the confidential and  
42.22 privileged documents, materials, or information subject to subdivision 1, with other state,  
42.23 federal, and international regulatory agencies, with the National Association of Insurance  
42.24 Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries, and with state, federal, and international law  
42.25 enforcement authorities, provided that the recipient agrees in writing to maintain the  
42.26 confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material, or other information;

42.27 (2) may receive documents, materials, or information, including otherwise confidential  
42.28 and privileged documents, materials, or information, from the National Association of  
42.29 Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates or subsidiaries, and from regulatory and law  
42.30 enforcement officials of other foreign or domestic jurisdictions, and shall maintain as  
42.31 confidential or privileged any document, material, or information received with notice or  
42.32 the understanding that it is confidential or privileged under the laws of the jurisdiction that  
42.33 is the source of the document, material, or information;

43.1        (3) may share documents, materials, or other information subject to subdivision 1, with  
43.2        a third-party consultant or vendor provided the consultant agrees in writing to maintain the  
43.3        confidentiality and privileged status of the document, material, or other information; and

43.4        (4) may enter into agreements governing sharing and use of information consistent with  
43.5        this subdivision.

43.6        **Subd. 4. No waiver of privilege or confidentiality.** No waiver of any applicable privilege  
43.7        or claim of confidentiality in the documents, materials, or information shall occur as a result  
43.8        of disclosure to the commissioner under this section or as a result of sharing as authorized  
43.9        in subdivision 3. Any document, material, or information disclosed to the commissioner  
43.10        under this section about a cybersecurity event must be retained and preserved by the licensee  
43.11        for the time period under section 541.05, or longer if required by the licensee's document  
43.12        retention policy.

43.13        **Subd. 5. Certain actions public.** Nothing in sections 60A.985 to 60A.9857 shall prohibit  
43.14        the commissioner from releasing final, adjudicated actions that are open to public inspection  
43.15        pursuant to chapter 13 to a database or other clearinghouse service maintained by the National  
43.16        Association of Insurance Commissioners, its affiliates, or subsidiaries.

43.17        **Subd. 6. Classification, protection, and use of information by others.** Documents,  
43.18        materials, or other information in the possession or control of the National Association of  
43.19        Insurance Commissioners or a third-party consultant pursuant to sections 60A.985 to  
43.20        60A.9857 are classified as confidential, protected nonpublic, and privileged; are not subject  
43.21        to subpoena; and are not subject to discovery or admissible in evidence in a private civil  
43.22        action.

43.23        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

43.24        **Sec. 11. [60A.9856] EXCEPTIONS.**

43.25        **Subdivision 1. Generally.** The following exceptions shall apply to sections 60A.985 to  
43.26        60A.9857:

43.27        (1) a licensee with fewer than 25 employees is exempt from sections 60A.9851 and  
43.28        60A.9852;

43.29        (2) a licensee subject to and in compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and  
43.30        Accountability Act, Public Law 104-191, 110 Stat. 1936 (HIPAA), is considered to comply  
43.31        with sections 60A.9851, 60A.9852, and 60A.9853, subdivisions 3 to 5, provided the licensee  
43.32        submits a written statement certifying its compliance with HIPAA;

44.1       (3) a licensee affiliated with a depository institution that maintains an information security  
44.2       program in compliance with the interagency guidelines establishing standards for  
44.3       safeguarding customer information as set forth pursuant to United States Code, title 15,  
44.4       sections 6801 and 6805, shall be considered to meet the requirements of section 60A.9851  
44.5       provided that the licensee produce, upon request, documentation satisfactory to the  
44.6       commission that independently validates the affiliated depository institution's adoption of  
44.7       an information security program that satisfies the interagency guidelines;

44.8       (4) an employee, agent, representative, or designee of a licensee, who is also a licensee,  
44.9       is exempt from sections 60A.9851 and 60A.9852 and need not develop its own information  
44.10       security program to the extent that the employee, agent, representative, or designee is covered  
44.11       by the information security program of the other licensee; and

44.12       (5) an employee, agent, representative, or designee of a producer licensee, as defined  
44.13       under section 60K.31, subdivision 6, who is also a licensee, is exempt from sections 60A.985  
44.14       to 60A.9857.

44.15       **Subd. 2. Exemption lapse; compliance.** In the event that a licensee ceases to qualify  
44.16       for an exception, such licensee shall have 180 days to comply with this act.

44.17       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

44.18       **Sec. 12. [60A.9857] PENALTIES.**

44.19       In the case of a violation of sections 60A.985 to 60A.9856, a licensee may be penalized  
44.20       in accordance with section 60A.052.

44.21       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

44.22       **Sec. 13.** Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 61A.245, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

44.23       **Subd. 4. Minimum values.** The minimum values as specified in subdivisions 5, 6, 7, 8  
44.24       and 10 of any paid-up annuity, cash surrender or death benefits available under an annuity  
44.25       contract shall be based upon minimum nonforfeiture amounts as defined in this subdivision.

44.26       (a) The minimum nonforfeiture amount at any time at or prior to the commencement of  
44.27       any annuity payments shall be equal to an accumulation up to that time at rates of interest  
44.28       as indicated in paragraph (b) of the net considerations, as defined in this subdivision, paid  
44.29       prior to that time, decreased by the sum of clauses (1) through (4):

44.30       (1) any prior withdrawals from or partial surrenders of the contract accumulated at rates  
44.31       of interest as indicated in paragraph (b);

45.1       (2) an annual contract charge of \$50, accumulated at rates of interest as indicated in  
45.2       paragraph (b);

45.3       (3) any premium tax paid by the company for the contract and not subsequently credited  
45.4       back to the company, such as upon early termination of the contract, in which case this  
45.5       decrease must not be taken, accumulated at rates of interest as indicated in paragraph (b);  
45.6       and

45.7       (4) the amount of any indebtedness to the company on the contract, including interest  
45.8       due and accrued.

45.9       The net considerations for a given contract year used to define the minimum nonforfeiture  
45.10      amount shall be an amount equal to 87.5 percent of the gross considerations credited to the  
45.11      contract during that contract year.

45.12      (b) The interest rate used in determining minimum nonforfeiture amounts must be an  
45.13      annual rate of interest determined as the lesser of three percent per annum and the following,  
45.14      which must be specified in the contract if the interest rate will be reset:

45.15      (1) the five-year constant maturity treasury rate reported by the Federal Reserve as of a  
45.16      date, or average over a period, rounded to the nearest 1/20 of one percent, specified in the  
45.17      contract no longer than 15 months prior to the contract issue date or redetermination date  
45.18      under clause (4);

45.19      (2) reduced by 125 basis points;

45.20      (3) where the resulting interest rate is not less than ~~one~~ 0.15 percent; and

45.21      (4) the interest rate shall apply for an initial period and may be redetermined for additional  
45.22      periods. The redetermination date, basis, and period, if any, shall be stated in the contract.  
45.23      The basis is the date or average over a specified period that produces the value of the  
45.24      five-year constant maturity treasury rate to be used at each redetermination date.

45.25      (c) During the period or term that a contract provides substantive participation in an  
45.26      equity indexed benefit, it may increase the reduction described in clause (2) by up to an  
45.27      additional 100 basis points to reflect the value of the equity index benefit. The present value  
45.28      at the contract issue date, and at each redetermination date thereafter, of the additional  
45.29      reduction must not exceed the market value of the benefit. The commissioner may require  
45.30      a demonstration that the present value of the additional reduction does not exceed the market  
45.31      value of the benefit. Lacking such a demonstration that is acceptable to the commissioner,  
45.32      the commissioner may disallow or limit the additional reduction.

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

46.1        Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 62J.23, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

46.2        **Subd. 2. Restrictions.** (a) From July 1, 1992, until rules are adopted by the commissioner  
46.3        under this section, the restrictions in the federal Medicare antikickback statutes in section  
46.4        1128B(b) of the Social Security Act, United States Code, title 42, section 1320a-7b(b), and  
46.5        rules adopted under the federal statutes, apply to all persons in the state, regardless of whether  
46.6        the person participates in any state health care program.

46.7        (b) Nothing in paragraph (a) shall be construed to prohibit an individual from receiving  
46.8        a discount or other reduction in price or a limited-time free supply or samples of a prescription  
46.9        drug, medical supply, or medical equipment offered by a pharmaceutical manufacturer,  
46.10        medical supply or device manufacturer, health plan company, or pharmacy benefit manager,  
46.11        so long as:

46.12        (1) the discount or reduction in price is provided to the individual in connection with  
46.13        the purchase of a prescription drug, medical supply, or medical equipment prescribed for  
46.14        that individual;

46.15        (2) it otherwise complies with the requirements of state and federal law applicable to  
46.16        enrollees of state and federal public health care programs;

46.17        (3) the discount or reduction in price does not exceed the amount paid directly by the  
46.18        individual for the prescription drug, medical supply, or medical equipment; and

46.19        (4) the limited-time free supply or samples are provided by a physician, advanced practice  
46.20        registered nurse, or pharmacist, as provided by the federal Prescription Drug Marketing  
46.21        Act.

46.22        For purposes of this paragraph, "prescription drug" includes prescription drugs that are  
46.23        administered through infusion, injection, or other parenteral methods, and related services  
46.24        and supplies.

46.25        (c) No benefit, reward, remuneration, or incentive for continued product use may be  
46.26        provided to an individual or an individual's family by a pharmaceutical manufacturer,  
46.27        medical supply or device manufacturer, or pharmacy benefit manager, except that this  
46.28        prohibition does not apply to:

46.29        (1) activities permitted under paragraph (b);

46.30        (2) a pharmaceutical manufacturer, medical supply or device manufacturer, health plan  
46.31        company, or pharmacy benefit manager providing to a patient, at a discount or reduced  
46.32        price or free of charge, ancillary products necessary for treatment of the medical condition

47.1 for which the prescription drug, medical supply, or medical equipment was prescribed or  
47.2 provided; and

47.3 (3) a pharmaceutical manufacturer, medical supply or device manufacturer, health plan  
47.4 company, or pharmacy benefit manager providing to a patient a trinket or memento of  
47.5 insignificant value.

47.6 (d) Nothing in this subdivision shall be construed to prohibit a health plan company  
47.7 from offering a tiered formulary with different co-payment or cost-sharing amounts for  
47.8 different drugs.

47.9 **Sec. 15. [62Q.472] SCREENING AND TESTING FOR OPIOIDS.**

47.10 (a) A health plan company shall not place a lifetime or annual limit on screenings and  
47.11 urinalysis testing for opioids for an enrollee in an inpatient or outpatient substance use  
47.12 disorder treatment program when the screening or testing is ordered by a health care provider  
47.13 and performed by an accredited clinical laboratory. A health plan company is not prohibited  
47.14 from conducting a medical necessity review when screenings or urinalysis testing for an  
47.15 enrollee exceeds 24 tests in any 12-month period.

47.16 (b) This section does not apply to managed care plans or county-based purchasing plans  
47.17 when the plan provides coverage to public health care program enrollees under chapter  
47.18 256B or 256L.

47.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022, and applies to health  
47.20 plans offered, issued, or renewed on or after that date.

47.21 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256B.0625, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

47.22 **Subd. 10. Laboratory and x-ray services.** (a) Medical assistance covers laboratory and  
47.23 x-ray services.

47.24 (b) Medical assistance covers screening and urinalysis tests for opioids without lifetime  
47.25 or annual limits.

47.26 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022.

47.27 Sec. 17. **STUDY AND REPORT ON DISPARITIES BETWEEN GEOGRAPHIC**  
47.28 **RATING AREAS IN INDIVIDUAL AND SMALL GROUP MARKET HEALTH**  
47.29 **INSURANCE RATES.**

47.30 **Subdivision 1. Study and recommendations.** (a) The commissioner of commerce must  
47.31 study disparities between Minnesota's nine geographic rating areas in individual and small

48.1 group market health insurance rates, and recommend ways to reduce or eliminate rate  
48.2 disparities between the geographic rating areas and provide stability for the individual and  
48.3 small group health insurance markets in Minnesota. The commissioner of commerce must:

48.4     (1) identify the factors that cause higher individual and small group market health  
48.5     insurance rates in certain geographic rating areas, and determine the extent to which each  
48.6     identified factor contributes to the higher rates;

48.7     (2) identify the impact of referral centers on individual and small group market health  
48.8     insurance rates in southeastern Minnesota, and identify ways to reduce the rate disparity  
48.9     between southeastern Minnesota and the metropolitan area, taking into consideration the  
48.10    patterns of referral center usage by patients in those regions;

48.11    (3) determine the extent to which individuals and small employers located in a geographic  
48.12    rating area with higher health insurance rates than surrounding geographic rating areas have  
48.13    obtained health insurance in a lower-cost geographic rating area, identify the strategies that  
48.14    individuals and small employers use to obtain health insurance in a lower-cost geographic  
48.15    rating area, and measure the effects of this practice on the rates of the individuals and small  
48.16    employers remaining in the geographic rating area with higher health insurance rates; and

48.17    (4) develop proposals to redraw the boundaries of Minnesota's geographic rating areas  
48.18    and calculate the effect each proposal would have on rates in each of the proposed rating  
48.19    areas. The commissioner of commerce must examine at least three options for redrawing  
48.20    the boundaries of Minnesota's geographic rating areas, at least one of which must reduce  
48.21    the number of geographic rating areas. All options for redrawing Minnesota's geographic  
48.22    rating areas considered by the commissioner of commerce must be designed:

48.23    (i) to reduce or eliminate rate disparities between geographic rating areas and provide  
48.24    for stability of the individual and small group health insurance markets in Minnesota;

48.25    (ii) after considering the composition of existing provider networks and referral patterns  
48.26    in regions of Minnesota; and

48.27    (iii) in compliance with the requirements for geographic rating areas in Code of Federal  
48.28    Regulations, title 45, section 147.102(b), and other applicable federal law and guidance.

48.29    (b) Health carriers that cover Minnesota residents, health systems that provide care to  
48.30    Minnesota residents, and the commissioner of health must cooperate with any requests for  
48.31    information from the commissioner of commerce that the commissioner of commerce  
48.32    determines is necessary to conduct the study.

49.1        (c) The commissioner of commerce may recommend one or more proposals for redrawing  
49.2        Minnesota's geographic rating areas if the commissioner of commerce determines that the  
49.3        proposal would reduce or eliminate individual and small group market health insurance rate  
49.4        disparities between the geographic rating areas and provide stability for the individual and  
49.5        small group health insurance markets in Minnesota.

49.6        Subd. 2. **Contract.** The commissioner of commerce may contract with another entity  
49.7        for technical assistance in conducting the study and developing recommendations according  
49.8        to subdivision 1.

49.9        Subd. 3. **Report.** The commissioner of commerce shall complete the study and  
49.10        recommendations by January 1, 2022, and submit a report on the study and recommendations  
49.11        by that date to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with  
49.12        jurisdiction over health care and health insurance. The commissioner of commerce shall  
49.13        complete the study using existing appropriations.

49.14        **Sec. 18. REPEALER.**

49.15        Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 60A.98; 60A.981; and 60A.982, are repealed.

49.16        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021.

49.17        **ARTICLE 4**  
49.18        **CONSUMER PROTECTION**

49.19        Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 13.712, is amended by adding a subdivision  
49.20        to read:

49.21        Subd. 7. **Student loan servicers.** Data collected, created, received, maintained, or  
49.22        disseminated under chapter 58B are governed by section 58B.10.

49.23        Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 47.59, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

49.24        Subd. 2. **Application.** Extensions of credit or purchases of extensions of credit by  
49.25        financial institutions under sections 47.20, 47.21, 47.201, 47.204, 47.58, 47.60, 48.153,  
49.26        48.185, 48.195, 59A.01 to 59A.15, 334.01, 334.011, 334.012, 334.022, 334.06, and 334.061  
49.27        to 334.19 may, but need not, be made according to those sections in lieu of the authority  
49.28        set forth in this section to the extent those sections authorize the financial institution to make  
49.29        extensions of credit or purchase extensions of credit under those sections. If a financial  
49.30        institution elects to make an extension of credit or to purchase an extension of credit under  
49.31        those other sections, the extension of credit or the purchase of an extension of credit is

50.1 subject to those sections and not this section, except this subdivision, and except as expressly  
50.2 provided in those sections. A financial institution may also charge an organization a rate of  
50.3 interest and any charges agreed to by the organization and may calculate and collect finance  
50.4 and other charges in any manner agreed to by that organization. Except for extensions of  
50.5 credit a financial institution elects to make under section 334.01, 334.011, 334.012, 334.022,  
50.6 334.06, or 334.061 to 334.19, chapter 334 does not apply to extensions of credit made  
50.7 according to this section or the sections listed in this subdivision. This subdivision does not  
50.8 authorize a financial institution to extend credit or purchase an extension of credit under  
50.9 any of the sections listed in this subdivision if the financial institution is not authorized to  
50.10 do so under those sections. A financial institution extending credit under any of the sections  
50.11 listed in this subdivision shall specify in the promissory note, contract, or other loan document  
50.12 the section under which the extension of credit is made.

50.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
50.14 short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

50.15 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 47.60, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

50.16 **Subd. 2. Authorization, terms, conditions, and prohibitions.** (a) ~~In lieu of the interest, finance charges, or fees in any other law, A consumer small loan lender may charge the following: interest, finance charges, and fees. The sum of any interest, finance charges, and fees must not exceed an annual percentage rate, as defined in section 47.59, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), of 36 percent.~~

50.21 (1) ~~on any amount up to and including \$50, a charge of \$5.50 may be added;~~  
50.22 (2) ~~on amounts in excess of \$50, but not more than \$100, a charge may be added equal to ten percent of the loan proceeds plus a \$5 administrative fee;~~  
50.24 (3) ~~on amounts in excess of \$100, but not more than \$250, a charge may be added equal to seven percent of the loan proceeds with a minimum of \$10 plus a \$5 administrative fee;~~  
50.26 (4) ~~for amounts in excess of \$250 and not greater than the maximum in subdivision 1, paragraph (a), a charge may be added equal to six percent of the loan proceeds with a minimum of \$17.50 plus a \$5 administrative fee.~~

50.29 (b) The term of a loan made under this section shall be for no more than 30 calendar days.

50.31 (c) After maturity, the contract rate must not exceed 2.75 percent per month of the remaining loan proceeds after the maturity date calculated at a rate of 1/30 of the monthly rate in the contract for each calendar day the balance is outstanding.

51.1       (d) No insurance charges or other charges must be permitted to be charged, collected,  
51.2       or imposed on a consumer small loan except as authorized in this section.

51.3       (e) On a loan transaction in which cash is advanced in exchange for a personal check,  
51.4       a return check charge may be charged as authorized by section 604.113, subdivision 2,  
51.5       paragraph (a). The civil penalty provisions of section 604.113, subdivision 2, paragraph  
51.6       (b), may not be demanded or assessed against the borrower.

51.7       (f) A loan made under this section must not be repaid by the proceeds of another loan  
51.8       made under this section by the same lender or related interest. The proceeds from a loan  
51.9       made under this section must not be applied to another loan from the same lender or related  
51.10       interest. No loan to a single borrower made pursuant to this section shall be split or divided  
51.11       and no single borrower shall have outstanding more than one loan with the result of collecting  
51.12       a higher charge than permitted by this section or in an aggregate amount of principal exceed  
51.13       at any one time the maximum of \$350.

51.14       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
51.15       short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

51.16       Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 47.601, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

51.17       Subd. 2. **Consumer short-term loan contract.** (a) No contract or agreement between  
51.18       a consumer short-term loan lender and a borrower residing in Minnesota may contain the  
51.19       following:

51.20       (1) a provision selecting a law other than Minnesota law under which the contract is  
51.21       construed or enforced;

51.22       (2) a provision choosing a forum for dispute resolution other than the state of Minnesota;  
51.23       or

51.24       (3) a provision limiting class actions against a consumer short-term lender for violations  
51.25       of subdivision 3 or for making consumer short-term loans:

51.26       (i) without a required license issued by the commissioner; or

51.27       (ii) in which interest rates, fees, charges, or loan amounts exceed those allowable under  
51.28       section 47.59, subdivision 6, or 47.60, subdivision 2, ~~other than by de minimis amounts if~~  
51.29       ~~no pattern or practice exists.~~

51.30       (b) Any provision prohibited by paragraph (a) is void and unenforceable.

52.1       (c) A consumer short-term loan lender must furnish a copy of the written loan contract  
52.2       to each borrower. The contract and disclosures must be written in the language in which  
52.3       the loan was negotiated with the borrower and must contain:

52.4       (1) the name; address, which may not be a post office box; and telephone number of the  
52.5       lender making the consumer short-term loan;

52.6       (2) the name and title of the individual employee or representative who signs the contract  
52.7       on behalf of the lender;

52.8       (3) an itemization of the fees and interest charges to be paid by the borrower;

52.9       (4) in bold, 24-point type, the annual percentage rate as computed under United States  
52.10      Code, chapter 15, section 1606; and

52.11      (5) a description of the borrower's payment obligations under the loan.

52.12      (d) The holder or assignee of a check or other instrument evidencing an obligation of a  
52.13      borrower in connection with a consumer short-term loan takes the instrument subject to all  
52.14      claims by and defenses of the borrower against the consumer short-term lender.

52.15      **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
52.16      short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

52.17      Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 47.601, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

52.18      Subd. 6. **Penalties for violation; private right of action.** (a) Except for a "bona fide  
52.19      error" as set forth under United States Code, chapter 15, section 1640, subsection (c), an  
52.20      individual or entity who violates subdivision 2 or 3 is liable to the borrower for:

52.21      (1) all money collected or received in connection with the loan;

52.22      (2) actual, incidental, and consequential damages;

52.23      (3) statutory damages of up to \$1,000 per violation;

52.24      (4) costs, disbursements, and reasonable attorney fees; and

52.25      (5) injunctive relief.

52.26      (b) In addition to the remedies provided in paragraph (a), a loan is void, and the borrower  
52.27      is not obligated to pay any amounts owing if the loan is made:

52.28      (1) by a consumer short-term lender who has not obtained an applicable license from  
52.29      the commissioner;

52.30      (2) in violation of any provision of subdivision 2 or 3; or

53.1       (3) in which interest, fees, charges, or loan amounts exceed the interest, fees, charges,  
53.2       or loan amounts allowable under ~~sections 47.59, subdivision 6, and section~~ 47.60, subdivision  
53.3       2.

53.4       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
53.5       short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

53.6       Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 48.512, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

53.7       **Subd. 2. Required information.** Before opening or authorizing signatory power over  
53.8       a transaction account, a financial intermediary shall require one applicant to provide the  
53.9       following information on an application document signed by the applicant:

53.10       (a) full name;

53.11       (b) birth date;

53.12       (c) address of residence;

53.13       (d) address of current employment, if employed;

53.14       (e) telephone numbers of residence and place of employment, if any;

53.15       (f) Social Security number;

53.16       (g) driver's license or identification card number issued pursuant to section 171.07. If  
53.17       the applicant does not have a driver's license or identification card, the applicant may provide  
53.18       an identification document number issued for identification purposes by any state, federal,  
53.19       or foreign government if the document includes the applicant's photograph, full name, birth  
53.20       date, and signature. ~~A valid Wisconsin driver's license without a photograph may be accepted~~  
53.21       ~~in satisfaction of the requirement of this paragraph until January 1, 1985;~~

53.22       (h) whether the applicant has had a transaction account at the same or another financial  
53.23       intermediary within 12 months immediately preceding the application, and if so, the name  
53.24       of the financial intermediary;

53.25       (i) whether the applicant has had a transaction account closed by a financial intermediary  
53.26       without the applicant's consent within 12 months immediately preceding the application,  
53.27       and if so, the reason the account was closed; and

53.28       (j) whether the applicant has been convicted of a criminal offense because of the use of  
53.29       a check or other similar item within 24 months immediately preceding the application.

53.30       A financial intermediary may require an applicant to disclose additional information.

54.1        An applicant who makes a false material statement that the applicant does not believe  
54.2        to be true in an application document with respect to information required to be provided  
54.3        by this subdivision is guilty of perjury. The financial intermediary shall notify the applicant  
54.4        of the provisions of this paragraph.

54.5        Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 48.512, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

54.6        **Subd. 3. Confirm no involuntary closing.** (a) Before opening or authorizing signatory  
54.7        power over a transaction account, the financial intermediary shall attempt to verify the  
54.8        information disclosed for subdivision 2, clause (i). Inquiries made to verify this information  
54.9        through persons in the business of providing such information must include an inquiry based  
54.10       on the applicant's identification number provided under subdivision 2, clause (g).

54.11       (b) The financial intermediary may not open or authorize signatory power over a  
54.12       transaction account if (i) the applicant had a transaction account closed by a financial  
54.13       intermediary without consent because of issuance by the applicant of dishonored checks  
54.14       within 12 months immediately preceding the application, or (ii) the applicant has been  
54.15       convicted of a criminal offense because of the use of a check or other similar item within  
54.16       24 months immediately preceding the application. This paragraph does not apply to programs  
54.17       designed to expand access to financial services to individuals who do not possess a transaction  
54.18       account.

54.19       (c) If the transaction account is refused pursuant to this subdivision, the reasons for the  
54.20       refusal shall be given to the applicant in writing and the applicant shall be allowed to provide  
54.21       additional information.

54.22       Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 48.512, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

54.23       **Subd. 7. Transaction account service charges and charges relating to dishonored**  
54.24       **checks.** (a) The establishment of transaction account service charges and the amounts of  
54.25       the charges not otherwise limited or prescribed by law or rule is a business decision to be  
54.26       made by each financial intermediary according to sound business judgment and safe, sound  
54.27       financial institution operational standards. In establishing transaction account service charges,  
54.28       the financial intermediary may consider, but is not limited to considering:

54.29       (1) costs incurred by the institution, plus a profit margin, in providing the service;  
54.30       (2) the deterrence of misuse by customers of financial institution services;  
54.31       (3) the establishment of the competitive position of the financial institution in accordance  
54.32       with the institution's marketing strategy; and

55.1 (4) maintenance of the safety and soundness of the institution.

55.2 (b) Transaction account service charges must be reasonable in relation to these  
55.3 considerations and should be arrived at by each financial intermediary on a competitive  
55.4 basis and not on the basis of any agreement, arrangement, undertaking, or discussion with  
55.5 other financial intermediaries or their officers.

55.6 (c) A financial intermediary may not impose a service charge in excess of \$4 \$10 for a  
55.7 dishonored check on any person other than the issuer of the check.

55.8 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 53.04, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

55.9 Subd. 3a. **Loans.** (a) The right to make loans, secured or unsecured, at the rates and on  
55.10 the terms and other conditions permitted under chapters 47 and 334. Loans made under this  
55.11 authority must be in amounts in compliance with section 53.05, clause (7). A licensee making  
55.12 a loan under this chapter secured by a lien on real estate shall comply with the requirements  
55.13 of section 47.20, subdivision 8. A licensee making a loan that is a consumer small loan, as  
55.14 defined in section 47.60, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), must comply with section 47.60. A  
55.15 licensee making a loan that is a consumer short-term loan, as defined in section 47.601,  
55.16 subdivision 1, paragraph (d), must comply with section 47.601.

55.17 (b) Loans made under this subdivision may be secured by real or personal property, or  
55.18 both. If the proceeds of a loan secured by a first lien on the borrower's primary residence  
55.19 are used to finance the purchase of the borrower's primary residence, the loan must comply  
55.20 with the provisions of section 47.20.

55.21 (c) An agency or instrumentality of the United States government or a corporation  
55.22 otherwise created by an act of the United States Congress or a lender approved or certified  
55.23 by the secretary of housing and urban development, or approved or certified by the  
55.24 administrator of veterans affairs, or approved or certified by the administrator of the Farmers  
55.25 Home Administration, or approved or certified by the Federal Home Loan Mortgage  
55.26 Corporation, or approved or certified by the Federal National Mortgage Association, that  
55.27 engages in the business of purchasing or taking assignments of mortgage loans and undertakes  
55.28 direct collection of payments from or enforcement of rights against borrowers arising from  
55.29 mortgage loans, is not required to obtain a certificate of authorization under this chapter in  
55.30 order to purchase or take assignments of mortgage loans from persons holding a certificate  
55.31 of authorization under this chapter.

55.32 (d) This subdivision does not authorize an industrial loan and thrift company to make  
55.33 loans under an overdraft checking plan.

56.1        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
56.2        short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

56.3        Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 56.131, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

56.4        **Subdivision 1. Interest rates and charges.** (a) On any loan in a principal amount not  
56.5        exceeding \$100,000 or 15 percent of a Minnesota corporate licensee's capital stock and  
56.6        surplus as defined in section 53.015, if greater, a licensee may contract for and receive  
56.7        interest, finance charges, and other charges as provided in section 47.59.

56.8        **(b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a licensee making a loan that is a consumer small**  
56.9        loan, as defined in section 47.60, subdivision 1, paragraph (a), must comply with section  
56.10        47.60. A licensee making a loan that is a consumer short-term loan, as defined in section  
56.11        47.601, subdivision 1, paragraph (d), must comply with section 47.601.

56.12        **(b) (c) With respect to a loan secured by an interest in real estate, and having a maturity**  
56.13        of more than 60 months, the original schedule of installment payments must fully amortize  
56.14        the principal and interest on the loan. The original schedule of installment payments for any  
56.15        other loan secured by an interest in real estate must provide for payment amounts that are  
56.16        sufficient to pay all interest scheduled to be due on the loan.

56.17        **(e) (d) A licensee may contract for and collect a delinquency charge as provided for in**  
56.18        section 47.59, subdivision 6, paragraph (a), clause (4).

56.19        **(d) (e) A licensee may grant extensions, deferments, or conversions to interest-bearing**  
56.20        as provided in section 47.59, subdivision 5.

56.21        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to consumer  
56.22        short-term loans and small loans originated on or after that date.

56.23        Sec. 11. **[58B.01] TITLE.**

56.24        This chapter may be cited as the "Student Loan Borrower Bill of Rights."

56.25        Sec. 12. **[58B.02] DEFINITIONS.**

56.26        **Subdivision 1. Scope.** For purposes of this chapter, the following terms have the meanings  
56.27        given them.

56.28        **Subd. 2. Borrower.** "Borrower" means a resident of this state who has received or agreed  
56.29        to pay a student loan or a person who shares responsibility with a resident for repaying a  
56.30        student loan.

57.1       Subd. 3. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of commerce.

57.2       Subd. 4. **Financial institution.** "Financial institution" means any of the following  
57.3       organized under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States: a bank, bank  
57.4       and trust, trust company with banking powers, savings bank, savings association, or credit  
57.5       union.

57.6       Subd. 5. **Person in control.** "Person in control" means any member of senior  
57.7       management, including owners or officers, and other persons who directly or indirectly  
57.8       possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management policies of an applicant  
57.9       or student loan servicer under this chapter, regardless of whether the person has any  
57.10       ownership interest in the applicant or student loan servicer. Control is presumed to exist if  
57.11       a person directly or indirectly owns, controls, or holds with power to vote ten percent or  
57.12       more of the voting stock of an applicant or student loan servicer or of a person who owns,  
57.13       controls, or holds with power to vote ten percent or more of the voting stock of an applicant  
57.14       or student loan servicer.

57.15       Subd. 6. **Servicing.** "Servicing" means:

57.16       (1) receiving any scheduled periodic payments from a borrower or notification of  
57.17       payments, and applying payments to the borrower's account pursuant to the terms of the  
57.18       student loan or of the contract governing servicing;

57.19       (2) during a period when no payment is required on a student loan, maintaining account  
57.20       records for the loan and communicating with the borrower regarding the loan, on behalf of  
57.21       the loan's holder; and

57.22       (3) interacting with a borrower, including activities to help prevent default on obligations  
57.23       arising from student loans, conducted to facilitate the requirements in clauses (1) and (2).

57.24       Subd. 7. **Student loan.** "Student loan" means a government, commercial, or foundation  
57.25       loan for actual costs paid for tuition and reasonable education and living expenses.

57.26       Subd. 8. **Student loan servicer.** "Student loan servicer" means any person, wherever  
57.27       located, responsible for the servicing of any student loan to any borrower, including a  
57.28       nonbank covered person, as defined in Code of Federal Regulations, title 12, section  
57.29       1090.101, who is responsible for the servicing of any student loan to any borrower.

57.30       Sec. 13. **[58B.03] LICENSING OF STUDENT LOAN SERVICERS.**

57.31       Subdivision 1. **License required.** No person shall directly or indirectly act as a student  
57.32       loan servicer without first obtaining a license from the commissioner.

58.1       Subd. 2. Exempt persons. The following persons are exempt from the requirements of  
58.2       this chapter:

58.3       (1) a financial institution;  
58.4       (2) a person servicing student loans made with the person's own funds, if no more than  
58.5       three student loans are made in any 12-month period;  
58.6       (3) an agency, instrumentality, or political subdivision of this state that makes, services,  
58.7       or guarantees student loans;  
58.8       (4) a person acting in a fiduciary capacity, such as a trustee or receiver, as a result of a  
58.9       specific order issued by a court of competent jurisdiction;  
58.10       (5) the University of Minnesota; or  
58.11       (6) a person exempted by order of the commissioner.

58.12       Subd. 3. Application for licensure. (a) Any person seeking to act within the state as a  
58.13       student loan servicer must apply for a license in a form and manner specified by the  
58.14       commissioner. At a minimum, the application must include:

58.15       (1) a financial statement prepared by a certified public accountant or a public accountant;  
58.16       (2) the history of criminal convictions, excluding traffic violations, for persons in control  
58.17       of the applicant;  
58.18       (3) any information requested by the commissioner related to the history of criminal  
58.19       convictions disclosed under clause (2);  
58.20       (4) a nonrefundable license fee established by the commissioner; and  
58.21       (5) a nonrefundable investigation fee established by the commissioner.

58.22       (b) The commissioner may conduct a state and national criminal history records check  
58.23       of the applicant and of each person in control or employee of the applicant.

58.24       Subd. 4. Issuance of a license. (a) Upon receipt of a complete application for an initial  
58.25       license and the payment of fees for a license and investigation, the commissioner must  
58.26       investigate the financial condition and responsibility, character, financial and business  
58.27       experience, and general fitness of the applicant. The commissioner may issue a license if  
58.28       the commissioner finds:

58.29       (1) the applicant's financial condition is sound;  
58.30       (2) the applicant's business will be conducted honestly, fairly, equitably, carefully, and  
58.31       efficiently within the purposes and intent of this chapter;

59.1        (3) each person in control of the applicant is in all respects properly qualified and of  
59.2        good character;

59.3        (4) no person, on behalf of the applicant, has knowingly made any incorrect statement  
59.4        of a material fact in the application or in any report or statement made pursuant to this  
59.5        section;

59.6        (5) no person, on behalf of the applicant, has knowingly omitted any information required  
59.7        by the commissioner from an application, report, or statement made pursuant to this section;

59.8        (6) the applicant has paid the fees required under this section; and

59.9        (7) the application has met other similar requirements as determined by the commissioner.

59.10        (b) A license issued under this chapter is not transferable or assignable.

59.11        **Subd. 5. Notification of a change in status.** An applicant or student loan servicer must  
59.12        notify the commissioner in writing of any change in the information provided in the initial  
59.13        application for a license or the most recent renewal application for a license. The notification  
59.14        must be received no later than ten business days after the date of an event that results in the  
59.15        information becoming inaccurate.

59.16        **Subd. 6. Term of license.** Licenses issued under this chapter expire on December 31 of  
59.17        each year and are renewable on January 1.

59.18        **Subd. 7. Exemption from application.** (a) A person is exempt from the application  
59.19        procedures under subdivision 3 if the commissioner determines that the person is servicing  
59.20        student loans in this state pursuant to a contract awarded by the United States Secretary of  
59.21        Education under United States Code, title 20, section 1087f. Documentation of eligibility  
59.22        for this exemption shall be in a form and manner determined by the commissioner.

59.23        (b) A person determined to be eligible for the exemption under paragraph (a) shall, upon  
59.24        payment of the fees under subdivision 3, be issued a license and deemed to meet all of the  
59.25        requirements of subdivision 4.

59.26        **Subd. 8. Notice.** (a) A person issued a license under subdivision 7 must provide the  
59.27        commissioner with written notice no less than seven days after the date the person's contract  
59.28        under United States Code, title 20, section 1087f, expires, is revoked, or is terminated.

59.29        (b) A person issued a license under subdivision 7 has 30 days from the date the  
59.30        notification under paragraph (a) is provided to complete the requirements of subdivision 3.  
59.31        If a person does not meet the requirements of subdivision 3 within this time period, the  
59.32        commissioner shall immediately suspend the person's license under this chapter.

60.1 **Sec. 14. [58B.04] LICENSING MULTIPLE PLACES OF BUSINESS.**

60.2 A person licensed to act as a student loan servicer in this state is prohibited from servicing  
60.3 student loans under any other name or at any other place of business than that named in the  
60.4 license. Any time a student loan servicer changes the location of the servicer's place of  
60.5 business, the servicer must provide prior written notice to the commissioner. A student loan  
60.6 servicer may not maintain more than one place of business under the same license. The  
60.7 commissioner may issue more than one license to the same student loan servicer, provided  
60.8 that the servicer complies with the application procedures in section 58B.03 for each license.

60.9 **Sec. 15. [58B.05] LICENSE RENEWAL.**

60.10 Subdivision 1. **Term.** Licenses are renewable on January 1 of each year.

60.11 Subd. 2. **Timely renewal.** (a) A person whose application is properly and timely filed  
60.12 who has not received notice of denial of renewal is considered approved for renewal. The  
60.13 person may continue to act as a student loan servicer whether or not the renewed license  
60.14 has been received on or before January 1 of the renewal year. An application for renewal  
60.15 of a license is considered timely filed if the application is received by the commissioner, or  
60.16 mailed with proper postage and postmarked, by the December 15 before the renewal year.  
60.17 An application for renewal is considered properly filed if the application is made upon forms  
60.18 duly executed, accompanied by fees prescribed by this chapter, and containing any  
60.19 information that the commissioner requires.

60.20 (b) A person who fails to make a timely application for renewal of a license and who  
60.21 has not received the renewal license as of January 1 of the renewal year is unlicensed until  
60.22 the renewal license has been issued by the commissioner and is received by the person.

60.23 Subd. 3. **Contents of renewal application.** An application for renewal of an existing  
60.24 license must contain the information specified in section 58B.03, subdivision 3, except that  
60.25 only the requested information having changed from the most recent prior application need  
60.26 be submitted.

60.27 Subd. 4. **Cancellation.** A student loan servicer ceasing an activity or activities regulated  
60.28 by this chapter and desiring to no longer be licensed shall inform the commissioner in writing  
60.29 and, at the same time, surrender the license and all other symbols or indicia of licensure.  
60.30 The licensee shall include a plan for the withdrawal from student loan servicing, including  
60.31 a timetable for the disposition of the student loans being serviced.

60.32 Subd. 5. **Renewal fees.** The following fees must be paid to the commissioner for a  
60.33 renewal license:

61.1 (1) a nonrefundable renewal license fee established by the commissioner; and  
61.2 (2) a nonrefundable renewal investigation fee established by the commissioner.

61.3 **Sec. 16. [58B.06] DUTIES OF STUDENT LOAN SERVICERS.**

61.4 **Subdivision 1. Response requirements.** Upon receiving a written communication from  
61.5 a borrower, a student loan servicer must:

61.6 (1) acknowledge receipt of the communication in less than ten days from the date the  
61.7 communication is received; and  
61.8 (2) provide information relating to the communication and, if applicable, the action the  
61.9 student loan servicer will take to either (i) correct the borrower's issue or (ii) explain why  
61.10 the issue cannot be corrected. The information must be provided less than 30 days after the  
61.11 date the written communication was received by the student loan servicer.

61.12 **Subd. 2. Overpayments.** (a) A student loan servicer must ask a borrower in what manner  
61.13 the borrower would like any overpayment to be applied to a student loan. A borrower's  
61.14 instruction regarding the application of overpayments is effective for the term of the loan  
61.15 or until the borrower provides a different instruction.

61.16 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "overpayment" means a payment on a student loan  
61.17 that exceeds the monthly amount due.

61.18 **Subd. 3. Partial payments.** (a) A student loan servicer must apply a partial payment in  
61.19 a manner intended to minimize late fees and the negative impact on the borrower's credit  
61.20 history. If a borrower has multiple student loans with the same student loan servicer, upon  
61.21 receipt of a partial payment the servicer must apply the payments to satisfy as many  
61.22 individual loan payments as possible.

61.23 (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "partial payment" means a payment on a student  
61.24 loan that is less than the monthly amount due.

61.25 **Subd. 4. Transfer of student loan.** (a) If a borrower's student loan servicer changes  
61.26 pursuant to the sale, assignment, or transfer of the servicing, the original student loan servicer  
61.27 must:

61.28 (1) require the new student loan servicer to honor all benefits that were made available,  
61.29 or which may have become available, to a borrower from the original student loan servicer;  
61.30 and

62.1        (2) transfer to the new student loan servicer all information regarding the borrower, the  
62.2        account of the borrower, and the borrower's student loan, including but not limited to the  
62.3        repayment status of the student loan and the benefits described in clause (1).

62.4        (b) The student loan servicer must complete the transfer under paragraph (a), clause (2),  
62.5        less than 45 days from the date of the sale, assignment, or transfer of the servicing.

62.6        (c) A sale, assignment, or transfer of the servicing must be completed no less than seven  
62.7        days from the date the next payment is due on the student loan.

62.8        (d) A new student loan servicer must adopt policies and procedures to verify that the  
62.9        original student loan servicer has met the requirements of paragraph (a).

62.10        **Subd. 5. Income-driven repayment.** A student loan servicer must evaluate a borrower  
62.11        for eligibility for an income-driven repayment program before placing a borrower in  
62.12        forbearance or default.

62.13        **Subd. 6. Records.** A student loan servicer must maintain adequate records of each student  
62.14        loan for not less than two years following the final payment on the student loan or the sale,  
62.15        assignment, or transfer of the servicing.

62.16        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2021, and applies to student loan  
62.17        contracts executed on or after that date.

62.18        **Sec. 17. [58B.07] PROHIBITED CONDUCT.**

62.19        **Subdivision 1. Misleading borrowers.** A student loan servicer must not directly or  
62.20        indirectly attempt to mislead a borrower.

62.21        **Subd. 2. Misrepresentation.** A student loan servicer must not engage in any unfair or  
62.22        deceptive practice or misrepresent or omit any material information in connection with the  
62.23        servicing of a student loan, including but not limited to misrepresenting the amount, nature,  
62.24        or terms of any fee or payment due or claimed to be due on a student loan, the terms and  
62.25        conditions of the loan agreement, or the borrower's obligations under the loan.

62.26        **Subd. 3. Misapplication of payments.** A student loan servicer must not knowingly or  
62.27        negligently misapply student loan payments.

62.28        **Subd. 4. Inaccurate information.** A student loan servicer must not knowingly or  
62.29        negligently provide inaccurate information to any consumer reporting agency.

62.30        **Subd. 5. Reporting of payment history.** A student loan servicer must not fail to report  
62.31        both the favorable and unfavorable payment history of the borrower to a consumer reporting

63.1 agency at least annually, if the student loan servicer regularly reports payment history  
63.2 information.

63.3 **Subd. 6. Refusal to communicate with a borrower's representative.** A student loan  
63.4 servicer must not refuse to communicate with a representative of the borrower who provides  
63.5 a written authorization signed by the borrower. The student loan servicer may adopt  
63.6 procedures reasonably related to verifying that the representative is in fact authorized to act  
63.7 on behalf of the borrower.

63.8 **Subd. 7. False statements and omissions.** A student loan servicer must not knowingly  
63.9 or negligently make any false statement or omission of material fact in connection with any  
63.10 application, information, or reports filed with the commissioner or any other federal, state,  
63.11 or local government agency.

63.12 **Subd. 8. Noncompliance with applicable laws.** A student loan servicer must not violate  
63.13 any other federal, state, or local laws, including those related to fraudulent, coercive, or  
63.14 dishonest practices.

63.15 **Subd. 9. Incorrect information regarding student loan forgiveness.** A student loan  
63.16 servicer must not misrepresent the availability of student loan forgiveness for which the  
63.17 servicer has reason to know the borrower is eligible. This includes but is not limited to  
63.18 student loan forgiveness programs specific to military borrowers, borrowers working in  
63.19 public service, or borrowers with disabilities.

63.20 **Subd. 10. Compliance with servicer duties.** A student loan servicer must comply with  
63.21 the duties and obligations under section 58B.06.

63.22 Sec. 18. **[58B.08] EXAMINATIONS.**

63.23 The commissioner has the same powers with respect to examinations of student loan  
63.24 servicers under this chapter that the commissioner has under section 46.04.

63.25 Sec. 19. **[58B.09] DENIAL; SUSPENSION; REVOCATION OF LICENSES.**

63.26 **Subdivision 1. Powers of commissioner.** (a) The commissioner may by order take any  
63.27 or all of the following actions:

- 63.28 (1) bar a person from engaging in student loan servicing;
- 63.29 (2) deny, suspend, or revoke a student loan servicer license;
- 63.30 (3) censure a student loan servicer;
- 63.31 (4) impose a civil penalty, as provided in section 45.027, subdivision 6;

64.1        (5) order restitution to the borrower, if applicable; or

64.2        (6) revoke an exemption.

64.3        (b) In order to take the action in paragraph (a), the commissioner must find:

64.4        (1) the order is in the public interest; and

64.5        (2) the student loan servicer, applicant, person in control, employee, or agent has:

64.6        (i) violated any provision of this chapter or a rule or order adopted or issued under this

64.7        chapter;

64.8        (ii) violated a standard of conduct or engaged in a fraudulent, coercive, deceptive, or

64.9        dishonest act or practice, including but not limited to negligently making a false statement

64.10        or knowingly omitting a material fact, whether or not the act or practice involves student

64.11        loan servicing;

64.12        (iii) engaged in an act or practice that demonstrates untrustworthiness, financial

64.13        irresponsibility, or incompetence, whether or not the act or practice involves student loan

64.14        servicing;

64.15        (iv) pled guilty or nolo contendere to or been convicted of a felony, gross misdemeanor,

64.16        or misdemeanor;

64.17        (v) paid a civil penalty or been the subject of a disciplinary action by the commissioner,

64.18        order of suspension or revocation, cease and desist order, injunction order, or order barring

64.19        involvement in an industry or profession issued by the commissioner or any other federal,

64.20        state, or local government agency;

64.21        (vi) been found by a court of competent jurisdiction to have engaged in conduct

64.22        evidencing gross negligence, fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit;

64.23        (vii) refused to cooperate with an investigation or examination by the commissioner;

64.24        (viii) failed to pay any fee or assessment imposed by the commissioner; or

64.25        (ix) failed to comply with state and federal tax obligations.

64.26        Subd. 2. Orders of the commissioner. To begin a proceeding under this section, the

64.27        commissioner shall issue an order requiring the subject of the proceeding to show cause

64.28        why action should not be taken against the person according to this section. The order must

64.29        be calculated to give reasonable notice of the time and place for the hearing and must state

64.30        the reasons for entry of the order. The commissioner may by order summarily suspend a

64.31        license or exemption or summarily bar a person from engaging in student loan servicing

65.1 pending a final determination of an order to show cause. If a license or exemption is  
65.2 summarily suspended or if the person is summarily barred from any involvement in the  
65.3 servicing of student loans pending final determination of an order to show cause, a hearing  
65.4 on the merits must be held within 30 days of the issuance of the order of summary suspension  
65.5 or bar. All hearings must be conducted under chapter 14. After the hearing, the commissioner  
65.6 shall enter an order disposing of the matter as the facts require. If the subject of the order  
65.7 fails to appear at a hearing after having been duly notified, the person is considered in default  
65.8 and the proceeding may be determined against the subject of the order upon consideration  
65.9 of the order to show cause, the allegations of which may be considered to be true.

65.10 Subd. 3. **Actions against lapsed license.** If a license or certificate of exemption lapses;  
65.11 is surrendered, withdrawn, or terminated; or otherwise becomes ineffective, the commissioner  
65.12 may (1) institute a proceeding under this subdivision within two years after the license or  
65.13 certificate of exemption was last effective and enter a revocation or suspension order as of  
65.14 the last date on which the license or certificate of exemption was in effect, and (2) impose  
65.15 a civil penalty as provided for in this section or section 45.027, subdivision 6.

65.16 Sec. 20. **[58B.10] DATA PRACTICES.**

65.17 Subdivision 1. **Classification of data.** Data collected, created, received, maintained, or  
65.18 disseminated by the Department of Commerce under this chapter are governed by section  
65.19 46.07.

65.20 Subd. 2. **Data sharing.** To the extent data collected, created, received, maintained, or  
65.21 disseminated under this chapter are not public data as defined by section 13.02, subdivision  
65.22 8a, the data may, when necessary to accomplish the purpose of this chapter, be shared  
65.23 between:

65.24 (1) the United States Department of Education;  
65.25 (2) the Office of Higher Education;  
65.26 (3) the Department of Commerce;  
65.27 (4) the Office of the Attorney General; and  
65.28 (5) any other local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies.

65.29 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 65B.15, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

65.30 Subdivision 1. **Grounds and notice.** No cancellation or reduction in the limits of liability  
65.31 of coverage during the policy period of any policy shall be effective unless notice thereof

66.1 is given and unless based on one or more reasons stated in the policy which shall be limited  
66.2 to the following:

- 66.3 1. nonpayment of premium; or
- 66.4 2. the policy was obtained through a material misrepresentation; or
- 66.5 3. any insured made a false or fraudulent claim or knowingly aided or abetted another  
66.6 in the presentation of such a claim; or
- 66.7 4. the named insured failed to disclose fully motor vehicle accidents and moving traffic  
66.8 violations of the named insured for the preceding 36 months if called for in the written  
66.9 application; or

66.10 5. the named insured failed to disclose in the written application any requested information  
66.11 necessary for the acceptance or proper rating of the risk; or

66.12 6. the named insured knowingly failed to give any required written notice of loss or  
66.13 notice of lawsuit commenced against the named insured, or, when requested, refused to  
66.14 cooperate in the investigation of a claim or defense of a lawsuit; or

66.15 7. the named insured or any other operator who either resides in the same household, or  
66.16 customarily operates an automobile insured under such policy, unless the other operator is  
66.17 identified as a named insured in another policy as an insured:

66.18 (a) has, within the 36 months prior to the notice of cancellation, had that person's driver's  
66.19 license under suspension or revocation because the person committed a moving traffic  
66.20 violation or because the person refused to be tested under section 169A.20, subdivision 1;  
66.21 or

66.22 (b) is or becomes subject to epilepsy or heart attacks, and such individual does not  
66.23 produce a written opinion from a physician testifying to that person's medical ability to  
66.24 operate a motor vehicle safely, such opinion to be based upon a reasonable medical  
66.25 probability; or

66.26 (c) has an accident record, conviction record (criminal or traffic), physical condition or  
66.27 mental condition, any one or all of which are such that the person's operation of an automobile  
66.28 might endanger the public safety; or

66.29 (d) has been convicted, or forfeited bail, during the 24 months immediately preceding  
66.30 the notice of cancellation for criminal negligence in the use or operation of an automobile,  
66.31 or assault arising out of the operation of a motor vehicle, or operating a motor vehicle while  
66.32 in an intoxicated condition or while under the influence of drugs; or leaving the scene of

67.1 an accident without stopping to report; or making false statements in an application for a  
67.2 driver's license, or theft or unlawful taking of a motor vehicle; or

67.3 (e) has been convicted of, or forfeited bail for, one or more violations within the 18  
67.4 months immediately preceding the notice of cancellation, of any law, ordinance, or rule  
67.5 which justify a revocation of a driver's license; or

67.6 8. the insured automobile is:

67.7 (a) so mechanically defective that its operation might endanger public safety; or

67.8 (b) used in carrying passengers for hire or compensation, provided however that the use  
67.9 of an automobile for a car pool or a private passenger vehicle used by a volunteer driver,  
67.10 as defined under section 65B.472, subdivision 1, paragraph (h), shall not be considered use  
67.11 of an automobile for hire or compensation; or

67.12 (c) used in the business of transportation of flammables or explosives; or

67.13 (d) an authorized emergency vehicle; or

67.14 (e) subject to an inspection law and has not been inspected or, if inspected, has failed  
67.15 to qualify within the period specified under such inspection law; or

67.16 (f) substantially changed in type or condition during the policy period, increasing the  
67.17 risk substantially, such as conversion to a commercial type vehicle, a dragster, sports car  
67.18 or so as to give clear evidence of a use other than the original use.

67.19 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 65B.43, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

67.20 Subd. 12. **Commercial vehicle.** "Commercial vehicle" means:

67.21 (a) any motor vehicle used as a common carrier,

67.22 (b) any motor vehicle, other than a passenger vehicle defined in section 168.002,  
67.23 subdivision 24, which has a curb weight in excess of 5,500 pounds apart from cargo capacity,  
67.24 or

67.25 (c) any motor vehicle while used in the for-hire transportation of property.

67.26 Commercial vehicle does not include a "commuter van," which for purposes of this  
67.27 chapter ~~shall mean~~ means (1) a motor vehicle having a capacity of seven to 16 persons  
67.28 which is used principally to provide prearranged transportation of persons to or from their  
67.29 place of employment or to or from a transit stop authorized by a local transit authority which  
67.30 vehicle is to be operated by a person who does not drive the vehicle as a principal occupation  
67.31 but is driving it only to or from the principal place of employment, to or from a transit stop

68.1       authorized by a local transit authority or, for personal use as permitted by the owner of the  
68.2       vehicle, or (2) a private passenger vehicle driven by a volunteer driver.

68.3       Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 65B.472, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

68.4       Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) Unless a different meaning is expressly made applicable,  
68.5       the terms defined in paragraphs (b) through (g) have the meanings given them for the  
68.6       purposes of this chapter.

68.7       (b) A "digital network" means any online-enabled application, software, website, or  
68.8       system offered or utilized by a transportation network company that enables the  
68.9       prearrangement of rides with transportation network company drivers.

68.10       (c) A "personal vehicle" means a vehicle that is used by a transportation network company  
68.11       driver in connection with providing a prearranged ride and is:

68.12       (1) owned, leased, or otherwise authorized for use by the transportation network company  
68.13       driver; and

68.14       (2) not a taxicab, limousine, or for-hire vehicle, or a private passenger vehicle driven  
68.15       by a volunteer driver.

68.16       (d) A "prearranged ride" means the provision of transportation by a driver to a rider,  
68.17       beginning when a driver accepts a ride requested by a rider through a digital network  
68.18       controlled by a transportation network company, continuing while the driver transports a  
68.19       requesting rider, and ending when the last requesting rider departs from the personal vehicle.  
68.20       A prearranged ride does not include transportation provided using a taxicab, limousine, or  
68.21       other for-hire vehicle.

68.22       (e) A "transportation network company" means a corporation, partnership, sole  
68.23       proprietorship, or other entity that is operating in Minnesota that uses a digital network to  
68.24       connect transportation network company riders to transportation network company drivers  
68.25       who provide prearranged rides.

68.26       (f) A "transportation network company driver" or "driver" means an individual who:

68.27       (1) receives connections to potential riders and related services from a transportation  
68.28       network company in exchange for payment of a fee to the transportation network company;  
68.29       and

68.30       (2) uses a personal vehicle to provide a prearranged ride to riders upon connection  
68.31       through a digital network controlled by a transportation network company in return for  
68.32       compensation or payment of a fee.

69.1       (g) A "transportation network company rider" or "rider" means an individual or persons  
69.2 who use a transportation network company's digital network to connect with a transportation  
69.3 network driver who provides prearranged rides to the rider in the driver's personal vehicle  
69.4 between points chosen by the rider.

69.5       (h) A "volunteer driver" means an individual who transports persons or goods on behalf  
69.6 of a nonprofit entity or governmental unit in a private passenger vehicle and receives no  
69.7 compensation for services provided other than the reimbursement of actual expenses.

69.8       Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 174.29, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

69.9       Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purpose of sections 174.29 and 174.30 "special  
69.10 transportation service" means motor vehicle transportation provided on a regular basis by  
69.11 a public or private entity or person that is designed exclusively or primarily to serve  
69.12 individuals who are elderly or disabled and who are unable to use regular means of  
69.13 transportation but do not require ambulance service, as defined in section 144E.001,  
69.14 subdivision 3. Special transportation service includes but is not limited to service provided  
69.15 by specially equipped buses, vans, taxis, and volunteers driving private automobiles, as  
69.16 defined in section 65B.472, subdivision 1, paragraph (h). Special transportation service also  
69.17 means those nonemergency medical transportation services under section 256B.0625,  
69.18 subdivision 17, that are subject to the operating standards for special transportation service  
69.19 under sections 174.29 to 174.30 and Minnesota Rules, chapter 8840.

69.20       Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 174.30, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

69.21       Subdivision 1. **Applicability.** (a) The operating standards for special transportation  
69.22 service adopted under this section do not apply to special transportation provided by:

69.23       (1) a public transit provider receiving financial assistance under sections 174.24 or  
69.24 473.371 to 473.449;  
69.25       (2) a volunteer driver, as defined in section 65B.472, subdivision 1, paragraph (h), using  
69.26 a private automobile;  
69.27       (3) a school bus as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 71; or  
69.28       (4) an emergency ambulance regulated under chapter 144.

69.29       (b) The operating standards adopted under this section only apply to providers of special  
69.30 transportation service who receive grants or other financial assistance from either the state  
69.31 or the federal government, or both, to provide or assist in providing that service; except that  
69.32 the operating standards adopted under this section do not apply to any nursing home licensed

70.1 under section 144A.02, to any board and care facility licensed under section 144.50, or to  
70.2 any day training and habilitation services, day care, or group home facility licensed under  
70.3 sections 245A.01 to 245A.19 unless the facility or program provides transportation to  
70.4 nonresidents on a regular basis and the facility receives reimbursement, other than per diem  
70.5 payments, for that service under rules promulgated by the commissioner of human services.

70.6 (c) Notwithstanding paragraph (b), the operating standards adopted under this section  
70.7 do not apply to any vendor of services licensed under chapter 245D that provides  
70.8 transportation services to consumers or residents of other vendors licensed under chapter  
70.9 245D and transports 15 or fewer persons, including consumers or residents and the driver.

70.10 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 174.30, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

70.11 Subd. 10. **Background studies.** (a) Providers of special transportation service regulated  
70.12 under this section must initiate background studies in accordance with chapter 245C on the  
70.13 following individuals:

70.14 (1) each person with a direct or indirect ownership interest of five percent or higher in  
70.15 the transportation service provider;

70.16 (2) each controlling individual as defined under section 245A.02;

70.17 (3) managerial officials as defined in section 245A.02;

70.18 (4) each driver employed by the transportation service provider;

70.19 (5) each individual employed by the transportation service provider to assist a passenger  
70.20 during transport; and

70.21 (6) all employees of the transportation service agency who provide administrative support,  
70.22 including those who:

70.23 (i) may have face-to-face contact with or access to passengers, their personal property,  
70.24 or their private data;

70.25 (ii) perform any scheduling or dispatching tasks; or

70.26 (iii) perform any billing activities.

70.27 (b) The transportation service provider must initiate the background studies required  
70.28 under paragraph (a) using the online NETStudy system operated by the commissioner of  
70.29 human services.

71.1       (c) The transportation service provider shall not permit any individual to provide any  
71.2       service or function listed in paragraph (a) until the transportation service provider has  
71.3       received notification from the commissioner of human services indicating that the individual:

71.4       (1) is not disqualified under chapter 245C; or

71.5       (2) is disqualified, but has received a set-aside of that disqualification according to  
71.6       sections 245C.22 and 245C.23 related to that transportation service provider.

71.7       (d) When a local or contracted agency is authorizing a ride under section 256B.0625,  
71.8       subdivision 17, by a volunteer driver, as defined in section 65B.472, subdivision 1, paragraph  
71.9       (h), and the agency authorizing the ride has reason to believe the volunteer driver has a  
71.10       history that would disqualify the individual or that may pose a risk to the health or safety  
71.11       of passengers, the agency may initiate a background study to be completed according to  
71.12       chapter 245C using the commissioner of human services' online NETStudy system, or  
71.13       through contacting the Department of Human Services background study division for  
71.14       assistance. The agency that initiates the background study under this paragraph shall be  
71.15       responsible for providing the volunteer driver with the privacy notice required under section  
71.16       245C.05, subdivision 2c, and payment for the background study required under section  
71.17       245C.10, subdivision 11, before the background study is completed.

71.18       Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 221.031, subdivision 3b, is amended to read:

71.19       **Subd. 3b. Passenger transportation; exemptions.** (a) A person who transports  
71.20       passengers for hire in intrastate commerce, who is not made subject to the rules adopted in  
71.21       section 221.0314 by any other provision of this section, must comply with the rules for  
71.22       hours of service of drivers while transporting employees of an employer who is directly or  
71.23       indirectly paying the cost of the transportation.

71.24       (b) This subdivision does not apply to:

71.25       (1) a local transit commission;

71.26       (2) a transit authority created by law; or

71.27       (3) persons providing transportation:

71.28       (i) in a school bus as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 71;

71.29       (ii) in a Head Start bus as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 34;

71.30       (iii) in a commuter van;

71.31       (iv) in an authorized emergency vehicle as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 3;

72.1       (v) in special transportation service certified by the commissioner under section 174.30;

72.2       (vi) that is special transportation service as defined in section 174.29, subdivision 1,

72.3       when provided by a volunteer driver, as defined in section 65B.472, subdivision 1, paragraph

72.4       (h), operating a private passenger vehicle as defined in section 169.011, subdivision 52;

72.5       (vii) in a limousine the service of which is licensed by the commissioner under section

72.6       221.84; or

72.7       (viii) in a taxicab, if the fare for the transportation is determined by a meter inside the

72.8       taxicab that measures the distance traveled and displays the fare accumulated.

72.9       Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 256B.0625, subdivision 17, is amended to read:

72.10       **Subd. 17. Transportation costs.** (a) "Nonemergency medical transportation service"

72.11       means motor vehicle transportation provided by a public or private person that serves

72.12       Minnesota health care program beneficiaries who do not require emergency ambulance

72.13       service, as defined in section 144E.001, subdivision 3, to obtain covered medical services.

72.14       (b) Medical assistance covers medical transportation costs incurred solely for obtaining

72.15       emergency medical care or transportation costs incurred by eligible persons in obtaining

72.16       emergency or nonemergency medical care when paid directly to an ambulance company,

72.17       nonemergency medical transportation company, or other recognized providers of

72.18       transportation services. Medical transportation must be provided by:

72.19       (1) nonemergency medical transportation providers who meet the requirements of this

72.20       subdivision;

72.21       (2) ambulances, as defined in section 144E.001, subdivision 2;

72.22       (3) taxicabs that meet the requirements of this subdivision;

72.23       (4) public transit, as defined in section 174.22, subdivision 7; or

72.24       (5) not-for-hire vehicles, including volunteer drivers, as defined in section 65B.472,

72.25       subdivision 1, paragraph (h).

72.26       (c) Medical assistance covers nonemergency medical transportation provided by

72.27       nonemergency medical transportation providers enrolled in the Minnesota health care

72.28       programs. All nonemergency medical transportation providers must comply with the

72.29       operating standards for special transportation service as defined in sections 174.29 to 174.30

72.30       and Minnesota Rules, chapter 8840, and all drivers must be individually enrolled with the

72.31       commissioner and reported on the claim as the individual who provided the service. All

72.32       nonemergency medical transportation providers shall bill for nonemergency medical

73.1 transportation services in accordance with Minnesota health care programs criteria. Publicly  
73.2 operated transit systems, volunteers, and not-for-hire vehicles are exempt from the  
73.3 requirements outlined in this paragraph.

73.4 (d) An organization may be terminated, denied, or suspended from enrollment if:

73.5 (1) the provider has not initiated background studies on the individuals specified in  
73.6 section 174.30, subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3); or

73.7 (2) the provider has initiated background studies on the individuals specified in section  
73.8 174.30, subdivision 10, paragraph (a), clauses (1) to (3), and:

73.9 (i) the commissioner has sent the provider a notice that the individual has been  
73.10 disqualified under section 245C.14; and

73.11 (ii) the individual has not received a disqualification set-aside specific to the special  
73.12 transportation services provider under sections 245C.22 and 245C.23.

73.13 (e) The administrative agency of nonemergency medical transportation must:

73.14 (1) adhere to the policies defined by the commissioner in consultation with the  
73.15 Nonemergency Medical Transportation Advisory Committee;

73.16 (2) pay nonemergency medical transportation providers for services provided to  
73.17 Minnesota health care programs beneficiaries to obtain covered medical services;

73.18 (3) provide data monthly to the commissioner on appeals, complaints, no-shows, canceled  
73.19 trips, and number of trips by mode; and

73.20 (4) by July 1, 2016, in accordance with subdivision 18e, utilize a web-based single  
73.21 administrative structure assessment tool that meets the technical requirements established  
73.22 by the commissioner, reconciles trip information with claims being submitted by providers,  
73.23 and ensures prompt payment for nonemergency medical transportation services.

73.24 (f) Until the commissioner implements the single administrative structure and delivery  
73.25 system under subdivision 18e, clients shall obtain their level-of-service certificate from the  
73.26 commissioner or an entity approved by the commissioner that does not dispatch rides for  
73.27 clients using modes of transportation under paragraph (i), clauses (4), (5), (6), and (7).

73.28 (g) The commissioner may use an order by the recipient's attending physician, advanced  
73.29 practice registered nurse, or a medical or mental health professional to certify that the  
73.30 recipient requires nonemergency medical transportation services. Nonemergency medical  
73.31 transportation providers shall perform driver-assisted services for eligible individuals, when  
73.32 appropriate. Driver-assisted service includes passenger pickup at and return to the individual's

74.1 residence or place of business, assistance with admittance of the individual to the medical  
74.2 facility, and assistance in passenger securement or in securing of wheelchairs, child seats,  
74.3 or stretchers in the vehicle.

74.4 Nonemergency medical transportation providers must take clients to the health care  
74.5 provider using the most direct route, and must not exceed 30 miles for a trip to a primary  
74.6 care provider or 60 miles for a trip to a specialty care provider, unless the client receives  
74.7 authorization from the local agency.

74.8 Nonemergency medical transportation providers may not bill for separate base rates for  
74.9 the continuation of a trip beyond the original destination. Nonemergency medical  
74.10 transportation providers must maintain trip logs, which include pickup and drop-off times,  
74.11 signed by the medical provider or client, whichever is deemed most appropriate, attesting  
74.12 to mileage traveled to obtain covered medical services. Clients requesting client mileage  
74.13 reimbursement must sign the trip log attesting mileage traveled to obtain covered medical  
74.14 services.

74.15 (h) The administrative agency shall use the level of service process established by the  
74.16 commissioner in consultation with the Nonemergency Medical Transportation Advisory  
74.17 Committee to determine the client's most appropriate mode of transportation. If public transit  
74.18 or a certified transportation provider is not available to provide the appropriate service mode  
74.19 for the client, the client may receive a onetime service upgrade.

74.20 (i) The covered modes of transportation are:

74.21 (1) client reimbursement, which includes client mileage reimbursement provided to  
74.22 clients who have their own transportation, or to family or an acquaintance who provides  
74.23 transportation to the client;

74.24 (2) volunteer transport, which includes transportation by volunteers using their own  
74.25 vehicle;

74.26 (3) unassisted transport, which includes transportation provided to a client by a taxicab  
74.27 or public transit. If a taxicab or public transit is not available, the client can receive  
74.28 transportation from another nonemergency medical transportation provider;

74.29 (4) assisted transport, which includes transport provided to clients who require assistance  
74.30 by a nonemergency medical transportation provider;

74.31 (5) lift-equipped/ramp transport, which includes transport provided to a client who is  
74.32 dependent on a device and requires a nonemergency medical transportation provider with  
74.33 a vehicle containing a lift or ramp;

75.1       (6) protected transport, which includes transport provided to a client who has received  
75.2       a prescreening that has deemed other forms of transportation inappropriate and who requires  
75.3       a provider: (i) with a protected vehicle that is not an ambulance or police car and has safety  
75.4       locks, a video recorder, and a transparent thermoplastic partition between the passenger and  
75.5       the vehicle driver; and (ii) who is certified as a protected transport provider; and

75.6       (7) stretcher transport, which includes transport for a client in a prone or supine position  
75.7       and requires a nonemergency medical transportation provider with a vehicle that can transport  
75.8       a client in a prone or supine position.

75.9       (j) The local agency shall be the single administrative agency and shall administer and  
75.10      reimburse for modes defined in paragraph (i) according to paragraphs (m) and (n) when the  
75.11      commissioner has developed, made available, and funded the web-based single administrative  
75.12      structure, assessment tool, and level of need assessment under subdivision 18e. The local  
75.13      agency's financial obligation is limited to funds provided by the state or federal government.

75.14       (k) The commissioner shall:

75.15       (1) in consultation with the Nonemergency Medical Transportation Advisory Committee,  
75.16      verify that the mode and use of nonemergency medical transportation is appropriate;

75.17       (2) verify that the client is going to an approved medical appointment; and

75.18       (3) investigate all complaints and appeals.

75.19       (l) The administrative agency shall pay for the services provided in this subdivision and  
75.20      seek reimbursement from the commissioner, if appropriate. As vendors of medical care,  
75.21      local agencies are subject to the provisions in section 256B.041, the sanctions and monetary  
75.22      recovery actions in section 256B.064, and Minnesota Rules, parts 9505.2160 to 9505.2245.

75.23       (m) Payments for nonemergency medical transportation must be paid based on the client's  
75.24      assessed mode under paragraph (h), not the type of vehicle used to provide the service. The  
75.25      medical assistance reimbursement rates for nonemergency medical transportation services  
75.26      that are payable by or on behalf of the commissioner for nonemergency medical  
75.27      transportation services are:

75.28       (1) \$0.22 per mile for client reimbursement;

75.29       (2) up to 100 percent of the Internal Revenue Service business deduction rate for volunteer  
75.30      transport;

76.1       (3) equivalent to the standard fare for unassisted transport when provided by public  
76.2       transit, and \$11 for the base rate and \$1.30 per mile when provided by a nonemergency  
76.3       medical transportation provider;

76.4       (4) \$13 for the base rate and \$1.30 per mile for assisted transport;

76.5       (5) \$18 for the base rate and \$1.55 per mile for lift-equipped/ramp transport;

76.6       (6) \$75 for the base rate and \$2.40 per mile for protected transport; and

76.7       (7) \$60 for the base rate and \$2.40 per mile for stretcher transport, and \$9 per trip for  
76.8       an additional attendant if deemed medically necessary.

76.9       (n) The base rate for nonemergency medical transportation services in areas defined  
76.10      under RUCA to be super rural is equal to 111.3 percent of the respective base rate in  
76.11      paragraph (m), clauses (1) to (7). The mileage rate for nonemergency medical transportation  
76.12      services in areas defined under RUCA to be rural or super rural areas is:

76.13       (1) for a trip equal to 17 miles or less, equal to 125 percent of the respective mileage  
76.14       rate in paragraph (m), clauses (1) to (7); and

76.15       (2) for a trip between 18 and 50 miles, equal to 112.5 percent of the respective mileage  
76.16       rate in paragraph (m), clauses (1) to (7).

76.17       (o) For purposes of reimbursement rates for nonemergency medical transportation  
76.18      services under paragraphs (m) and (n), the zip code of the recipient's place of residence  
76.19      shall determine whether the urban, rural, or super rural reimbursement rate applies.

76.20       (p) For purposes of this subdivision, "rural urban commuting area" or "RUCA" means  
76.21      a census-tract based classification system under which a geographical area is determined  
76.22      to be urban, rural, or super rural.

76.23       (q) The commissioner, when determining reimbursement rates for nonemergency medical  
76.24      transportation under paragraphs (m) and (n), shall exempt all modes of transportation listed  
76.25      under paragraph (i) from Minnesota Rules, part 9505.0445, item R, subitem (2).

76.26      Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325E.21, is amended by adding a subdivision  
76.27      to read:

76.28       Subd. 2b. Purchase of catalytic converters. (a) Any person who purchases or receives  
76.29       a catalytic converter must comply with this section.

76.30       (b) Every scrap metal dealer, including an agent, employee, or representative of the  
76.31       dealer, must create a permanent record, written in English and using an electronic record

77.1 program, at the time of each catalytic converter purchase or acquisition. The record must  
77.2 include:

77.3 (1) the vehicle identification number of the vehicle from which the catalytic converter  
77.4 was removed; and

77.5 (2) the name of the person who removed the catalytic converter.

77.6 (c) A scrap metal dealer must make the information under paragraph (b) available for  
77.7 examination by a law enforcement agency or a person who has reported theft of a catalytic  
77.8 converter.

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

77.10 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325E.21, is amended by adding a subdivision  
77.11 to read:

77.12 Subd. 2c. **Catalytic converter theft prevention pilot project.** (a) The catalytic converter  
77.13 theft prevention pilot project is created to deter the theft of catalytic converters by marking  
77.14 catalytic converters with vehicle identification numbers or other unique identifiers.

77.15 (b) The commissioner must establish a procedure to mark the catalytic converters of  
77.16 vehicles most likely to be targeted for theft with unique identification numbers using labels,  
77.17 engraving, theft deterrence paint, or other methods that permanently mark the catalytic  
77.18 converter without damaging the catalytic converter's function.

77.19 (c) The commissioner must work with law enforcement agencies, insurance companies,  
77.20 and scrap metal dealers to (1) identify vehicles that are most frequently targeted for catalytic  
77.21 converter theft, and (2) establish the most effective methods for marking catalytic converters.

77.22 (d) Materials purchased under this program may be distributed to dealers, as defined in  
77.23 section 168.002, subdivision 6, automobile repair shops and service centers, law enforcement  
77.24 agencies, and community organizations to arrange the catalytic converters of vehicles most  
77.25 likely to be targeted for theft to be marked at no cost to the vehicle owners.

77.26 (e) The commissioner may prioritize distribution of materials to areas experiencing the  
77.27 highest rates of catalytic converter theft.

77.28 (f) The commissioner must make educational information resulting from the pilot program  
77.29 available to law enforcement agencies and scrap metal dealers, and is encouraged to publicize  
77.30 the program to the general public.

77.31 (g) The commissioner must include a report on the pilot project in the report required  
77.32 under section 65B.84, subdivision 2. The report must describe the progress, results, and any

78.1 findings of the pilot project including the total number of catalytic converters marked under  
78.2 the program, and, to the extent known, whether any catalytic converters marked under the  
78.3 pilot project were stolen and the outcome of any criminal investigation into the thefts.

78.4 Sec. 31. **[325E.80] ABNORMAL MARKET DISRUPTIONS; UNCONSCIONABLY**  
78.5 **EXCESSIVE PRICES.**

78.6 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms in this subdivision  
78.7 have the meanings given.

78.8 (b) "Abnormal market disruption" means a change in the market resulting from a natural  
78.9 or man-made disaster, a national or local emergency, a public health emergency, or an event  
78.10 resulting in a declaration of a state of emergency by the governor; and occurs when  
78.11 specifically declared by the governor. The governor's declaration of an abnormal market  
78.12 disruption must note the geographic area to which this section applies. An abnormal market  
78.13 disruption terminates no later than 30 days after the end of the state of emergency for which  
78.14 the abnormal market disruption was activated.

78.15 (c) "Essential consumer good or service" means a good or service vital and necessary  
78.16 for the health, safety, and welfare of the public, including without limitation: food; water;  
78.17 fuel; gasoline; shelter; transportation; health care services; pharmaceuticals; and medical,  
78.18 personal hygiene, sanitation, and cleaning supplies.

78.19 (d) "Seller" means a manufacturer, supplier, wholesaler, distributor, or retail seller of  
78.20 goods or services.

78.21 (e) "Unconscionably excessive" means there is a gross disparity between the seller's  
78.22 price of a good or service offered for sale or sold in the usual course of business during the  
78.23 30 days immediately prior to the governor's declaration of an abnormal market disruption  
78.24 and the seller's price of the same or similar good or service after the governor's declaration  
78.25 of an abnormal market disruption, and the gross disparity is not substantially related to an  
78.26 increase in the cost of obtaining or selling the good or of providing the service. A gross  
78.27 disparity between the price of a good or service does not occur when the amount charged  
78.28 after the abnormal market disruption increased the price 30 percent or less.

78.29 Subd. 2. **Prohibition.** If the governor declares an abnormal market disruption a person  
78.30 is prohibited from selling or offering to sell an essential consumer good or service for an  
78.31 amount that represents an unconscionably excessive price.

79.1       Subd. 3. Civil penalty. A person who is found to have violated this section is subject  
79.2       to a civil penalty of not more than \$1,000 per sale or transaction, with a maximum penalty  
79.3       of \$10,000 per day.

79.4       Subd. 4. Enforcement authority. The attorney general may investigate an alleged  
79.5       violation of this section. The authority of the attorney general under this section includes  
79.6       but is not limited to the authority provided under section 8.31.

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

79.8       Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325F.171, is amended by adding a subdivision  
79.9       to read:

79.10       Subd. 5. Enforcement. This section may be enforced as provided under sections 325F.10  
79.11       to 325F.12, 325F.14 to 325F.16, and 45.027, subdivisions 1 to 6. The commissioner may  
79.12       coordinate with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency and the commissioner  
79.13       of health to enforce this section.

79.14       Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 325F.172, is amended by adding a subdivision  
79.15       to read:

79.16       Subd. 4. Enforcement. Sections 325F.173 to 325F.175 may be enforced as provided  
79.17       under sections 325F.10 to 325F.12, 325F.14 to 325F.16, and 45.027, subdivisions 1 to 6.  
79.18       The commissioner may coordinate with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency  
79.19       and the commissioner of health to enforce this section.

79.20       Sec. 34. **[325F.179] ENFORCEMENT.**

79.21       Sections 325F.177 and 325F.178 may be enforced as provided under sections 325F.10  
79.22       to 325F.12, 325F.14 to 325F.16, and 45.027, subdivisions 1 to 6. The commissioner may  
79.23       coordinate with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency and the commissioner  
79.24       of health to enforce this section.

79.25       Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.972, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

79.26       Subd. 4. Denial of access. Upon default, the owner shall mail notice of default as provided  
79.27       under section 514.974. The owner may deny the occupant access to the personal property  
79.28       contained in the self-service storage facility after default, service of the notice of default,  
79.29       expiration of the date stated for denial of access, and application of any security deposit to  
79.30       unpaid rent. ~~The notice of default must state the date that the occupant will be denied access~~  
79.31       ~~to the occupant's personal property in the self-service storage facility and that access will~~

80.1 ~~be denied until the owner's claim has been satisfied. The notice of default must state that~~  
80.2 ~~any dispute regarding denial of access can be raised by the occupant beginning legal action~~  
80.3 ~~in court. Notice of default must further state the rights of the occupant contained in~~  
80.4 ~~subdivision 5.~~

80.5 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.972, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

80.6 **Subd. 5. Access to certain items.** ~~The occupant may remove from the self-service storage~~  
80.7 ~~facility personal papers, health aids, personal clothing of the occupant and the occupant's~~  
80.8 ~~dependents, and personal property that is necessary for the livelihood of the occupant, that~~  
80.9 ~~has a market value of less than \$50 per item, if demand is made to any of the persons listed~~  
80.10 ~~in section 514.976, subdivision 1. The occupant shall present a list of the items, and may~~  
80.11 ~~remove them during the facility's ordinary business hours prior to the sale authorized by~~  
80.12 ~~section 514.973. If the owner unjustifiably denies the occupant access for the purpose of~~  
80.13 ~~removing the items specified in this subdivision, the occupant is entitled to an order allowing~~  
80.14 ~~access to the storage unit for removal of the specified items. The self-service storage facility~~  
80.15 ~~is liable to the occupant for the costs, disbursements and attorney fees expended by the~~  
80.16 ~~occupant to obtain this order.~~ (a) Any occupant may remove from the self-storage facility  
80.17 personal papers and health aids upon demand made to any of the persons listed in section  
80.18 514.976, subdivision 1.

80.19 (b) An occupant who provides documentation from a government or nonprofit agency  
80.20 or legal aid office that the occupant is a recipient of relief based on need, is eligible for legal  
80.21 aid services, or is a survivor of domestic violence or sexual assault may remove, in addition  
80.22 to the items provided in paragraph (a), personal clothing of the occupant and the occupant's  
80.23 dependents and tools of the trade that are necessary for the livelihood of the occupant that  
80.24 has a market value not to exceed \$125 per item.

80.25 (c) The occupant shall present a list of the items and may remove the items during the  
80.26 facility's ordinary business hours prior to the sale authorized by section 514.973. If the  
80.27 owner unjustifiably denies the occupant access for the purpose of removing the items  
80.28 specified in this subdivision, the occupant is entitled to request relief from the court for an  
80.29 order allowing access to the storage space for removal of the specified items. The self-service  
80.30 storage facility is liable to the occupant for the costs, disbursements, and attorney fees  
80.31 expended by the occupant to obtain this order.

80.32 (d) For the purposes of this subdivision, "relief based on need" includes but is not limited  
80.33 to receipt of a benefit from the Minnesota family investment program and diversionary  
80.34 work program, medical assistance, general assistance, emergency general assistance,

81.1     Minnesota supplemental aid, Minnesota supplemental aid housing assistance, MinnesotaCare,  
81.2     Supplemental Security Income, energy assistance, emergency assistance, Supplemental  
81.3     Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, earned income tax credit, or Minnesota working  
81.4     family tax credit. Relief based on need can also be proven by providing documentation from  
81.5     a legal aid organization that the individual is receiving legal aid assistance, or by providing  
81.6     documentation from a government agency, nonprofit, or housing assistance program that  
81.7     the individual is receiving assistance due to domestic violence or sexual assault.

81.8     Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.973, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

81.9       Subd. 3. **Contents of notice.** The notice must include:

81.10      (1) a statement of the amount owed for rent and other charges and demand for payment  
81.11      within a specified time not less than 14 days after delivery of the notice;

81.12      (2) pursuant to section 514.972, subdivision 4, a notice of denial of access to the storage  
81.13      space, if this denial is permitted under the terms of the rental agreement;

81.14      (3) the date that the occupant will be denied access to the occupant's personal property  
81.15      in the self-service storage facility;

81.16      (4) a statement that access will be denied until the owner's claim has been satisfied;

81.17      (5) a statement that any dispute regarding denial of access can be raised by an occupant  
81.18      beginning legal action in court;

81.19      (6) the name, street address, and telephone number of the owner, or of the owner's  
81.20      designated agent, whom the occupant may contact to respond to the notice;

81.21      (7) a conspicuous statement that unless the claim is paid within the time stated in  
81.22      the notice, the personal property will be advertised for sale. The notice must specify the  
81.23      time and place of the sale; and

81.24      (8) a conspicuous statement of the items that the occupant may remove without  
81.25      charge pursuant to section 514.972, subdivision 5, if the occupant is denied general access  
81.26      to the storage space.

81.27     Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.973, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

81.28       Subd. 4. **Sale of property.** (a) A sale of personal property may take place no sooner  
81.29      than 45 days after default or, if the personal property is a motor vehicle or watercraft, no  
81.30      sooner than 60 days after default.

82.1       (b) After the expiration of the time given in the notice, the sale must be published once  
82.2       a week for two weeks consecutively in a newspaper of general circulation where the sale  
82.3       is to be held. The sale may take place no sooner than 15 days after the first publication. If  
82.4       the lien is satisfied before the second publication occurs, the second publication is waived.  
82.5       If there is no qualified newspaper under chapter 331A where the sale is to be held, the  
82.6       advertisement may be posted on an independent, publicly accessible website that advertises  
82.7       self-storage lien sales or public notices. The advertisement must include a general description  
82.8       of the goods, the name of the person on whose account the goods are being held, and the  
82.9       time and place of the sale.

82.10      (c) A sale of the personal property must conform to the terms of the notification.

82.11      (d) A sale of the personal property must be public and must be either:

82.12       (1) held via an online auction; or

82.13       (2) held at the storage facility, or at the nearest suitable place at which the personal  
82.14       property is held or stored.

82.15       Owners shall require all bidders, including online bidders, to register and agree to the rules  
82.16       of the sale.

82.17       (e) The sale must be conducted in a commercially reasonable manner. A sale is  
82.18       commercially reasonable if the property is sold in conformity with the practices among  
82.19       dealers in the property sold or sellers of similar distressed property sales.

82.20       Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.974, is amended to read:

82.21       **514.974 ADDITIONAL NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.**

82.22       Notification of the proposed sale of personal property must include a notice of denial  
82.23       of access to the personal property until the owner's claim has been satisfied. Any notice the  
82.24       owner is required to mail to the occupant under sections 514.970 to 514.979 shall be sent  
82.25       to:

82.26       (1) the e-mail address, if consented to by the occupant, as provided in section 514.973,  
82.27       subdivision 2;

82.28       (2) the mailing address and any alternate mailing address provided by the occupant in  
82.29       the rental agreement; or

82.30       (3) the last known mailing address of the occupant, if the last known mailing address  
82.31       differs from the mailing address listed by the occupant in the rental agreement and the owner  
82.32       has reason to believe that the last known mailing address is more current.

83.1 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 514.977, is amended to read:

83.2 **514.977 DEFAULT ADDITIONAL REMEDIES.**

83.3 Subdivision 1. Default; breach of rental agreement. If an occupant defaults in the  
83.4 payment of rent for the storage space or otherwise breaches the rental agreement, the owner  
83.5 may commence an ~~eviction~~ action ~~under chapter 504B to terminate the rental agreement,~~  
83.6 recover possession of the storage space, remove the occupant, and dispose of the stored  
83.7 personal property. The action shall be conducted in accordance with the Minnesota Rules  
83.8 of Civil Procedure, except as provided in this section.

83.9 Subd. 2. Service of summons. The summons must be served at least seven days before  
83.10 the date of the court appearance as provided in subdivision 3.

83.11 Subd. 3. Appearance. Except as provided in subdivision 4, in an action filed under this  
83.12 section the appearance shall be not less than seven or more than 14 days from the day of  
83.13 issuing the summons.

83.14 Subd. 4. Expedited hearing. If the owner files a motion and affidavit stating specific  
83.15 facts and instances in support of an allegation that the occupant is causing a nuisance or  
83.16 engaging in illegal or other behavior that seriously endangers the safety of others, others'  
83.17 property, or the storage facility's property, the appearance shall be not less than three days  
83.18 nor more than seven days from the date the summons is issued. The summons in an expedited  
83.19 hearing shall be served upon the occupant within 24 hours of issuance unless the court  
83.20 orders otherwise for good cause shown.

83.21 Subd. 5. Answer; trial; continuance. At the court appearance specified in the summons,  
83.22 the defendant may answer the complaint, and the court shall hear and decide the action,  
83.23 unless it grants a continuance of the trial, which may be for no longer than six days, unless  
83.24 all parties consent to longer continuance.

83.25 Subd. 6. Counterclaims. The occupant is prohibited from bringing counterclaims in the  
83.26 action that are unrelated to the possession of the storage space. Nothing in this section  
83.27 prevents the occupant from bringing the claim in a separate action.

83.28 Subd. 7. Judgment; writ. Judgment in matters adjudicated under this section shall be  
83.29 in accordance with section 504B.345, paragraph (a). Execution of a writ issued under this  
83.30 section shall be in accordance with section 504B.365.

84.1 Sec. 41. **THIRD-PARTY FOOD DELIVERY FEES; LIMITATION.**84.2 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this  
84.3 subdivision have the meanings given.84.4 (b) "Delivery fee" means a fee charged by a third-party food delivery service to a food  
84.5 and beverage establishment for a service that delivers food or beverages from the  
84.6 establishment to customers. Delivery fee does not include (1) any other fee that may be  
84.7 charged by a third-party food delivery service to a food and beverage establishment, including  
84.8 but not limited to fees for marketing, listing, or advertising the food and beverage  
84.9 establishment on the third-party food delivery service platform, or (2) fees related to  
84.10 processing an online order.84.11 (c) "Food and beverage establishment" or "establishment" means a retail business that  
84.12 sells prepared food or beverages to the public.84.13 (d) "Online order" means an order, including a telephone order, placed by a customer  
84.14 through or with the assistance of a platform provided by a third-party food delivery service.84.15 (e) "Purchase price" means the total price of the items contained in an online order that  
84.16 are listed on the menu of the food and beverage establishment where the order is placed.  
84.17 Purchase price does not include taxes, gratuities, or other fees that may make up the total  
84.18 cost of a customer's online order.84.19 (f) "Third-party food delivery service" means a platform offered through an  
84.20 online-enabled application, software, website, or other Internet service that offers or arranges  
84.21 for the sale of food and beverages prepared by, delivered by, or picked up from a food and  
84.22 beverage establishment.84.23 Subd. 2. **Limitation on food delivery fees.** (a) A third-party food delivery service is  
84.24 prohibited from:84.25 (1) charging a food and beverage establishment a delivery fee that totals more than ten  
84.26 percent of an online order's purchase price;84.27 (2) charging a food and beverage establishment any fee, other than the delivery fee  
84.28 described in clause (1), to use the third-party delivery service that totals more than five  
84.29 percent of an online order's purchase price;84.30 (3) charging a customer a purchase price that is higher than the price set by the food and  
84.31 beverage establishment or, if no price is set by the food and beverage establishment, the  
84.32 price listed on the establishment's menu; or

85.1        (4) reducing the compensation rates paid to third-party food delivery service drivers as  
85.2        a result of the limitations on fees instituted by this section.

85.3        (b) A food and beverage establishment may choose, but a third-party food delivery  
85.4        service is prohibited from requiring, an exemption for marketing or advertising the food  
85.5        and beverage establishment on the third-party food delivery service platform from the  
85.6        limitations in paragraph (a).

85.7        **Subd. 3. Enforcement by attorney general.** (a) The attorney general must enforce this  
85.8        section under Minnesota Statutes, section 8.31.

85.9        (b) In addition to the remedies otherwise provided by law, a person injured by a violation  
85.10        of subdivision 2 may bring a civil action and recover damages, together with costs and  
85.11        disbursements, including costs of investigation and reasonable attorney fees, and receive  
85.12        other equitable relief as determined by the court.

85.13        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and  
85.14        expires 60 days after the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive  
85.15        order that relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19 is terminated or rescinded.

## ARTICLE 5

### COLLECTION AGENCIES AND DEBT BUYERS

85.18        Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.31, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

85.19        **Subd. 3. Collection agency.** "Collection agency" or "licensee" means ~~and includes any~~  
85.20        (1) a person engaged in the business of collection for others any account, bill, or other  
85.21        indebtedness, except as hereinafter provided; or (2) a debt buyer. It includes persons who  
85.22        furnish collection systems carrying a name which simulates the name of a collection agency  
85.23        and who supply forms or form letters to be used by the creditor, even though such forms  
85.24        direct the debtor to make payments directly to the creditor rather than to such fictitious  
85.25        agency.

85.26        Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.31, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

85.27        **Subd. 6. Collector.** "Collector" is a person acting under the authority of a collection  
85.28        agency under subdivision 3 or a debt buyer under subdivision 8, and on its behalf in the  
85.29        business of collection for ~~others~~ an account, bill, or other indebtedness except as otherwise  
85.30        provided in this chapter.

86.1        Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.31, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
86.2        read:

86.3        Subd. 8. **Debt buyer.** "Debt buyer" means a business engaged in the purchase of any  
86.4        charged-off account, bill, or other indebtedness for collection purposes, whether the business  
86.5        collects the account, bill, or other indebtedness, hires a third party for collection, or hires  
86.6        an attorney for litigation related to the collection.

86.7        Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.31, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
86.8        read:

86.9        Subd. 9. **Affiliated company.** "Affiliated company" means a company that: (1) directly  
86.10        or indirectly controls, is controlled by, or is under common control with another company  
86.11        or companies; (2) has the same executive management team or owner that exerts control  
86.12        over the business operations of the company; (3) maintains a uniform network of corporate  
86.13        and compliance policies and procedures; and (4) does not engage in active collection of  
86.14        debts.

86.15       Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.311, is amended to read:

### **332.311 TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS.**

86.17       The powers, duties, and responsibilities of the consumer services section under sections  
86.18       332.31 to 332.44 relating to collection agencies and debt buyers are hereby transferred to  
86.19       and imposed upon the commissioner of commerce.

86.20       Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.32, is amended to read:

### **332.32 EXCLUSIONS.**

86.22       (a) The term "collection agency" shall does not include ~~persons whose collection activities~~  
86.23       ~~are confined to and are directly related to the operation of a business other than that of a~~  
86.24       ~~collection agency such as, but not limited to banks when collecting accounts owed to the~~  
86.25       ~~banks and when the bank will sustain any loss arising from uncollectible accounts, abstract~~  
86.26       ~~companies doing an escrow business, real estate brokers, public officers, persons acting~~  
86.27       ~~under order of a court, lawyers, trust companies, insurance companies, credit unions, savings~~  
86.28       ~~associations, loan or finance companies unless they are engaged in asserting, enforcing or~~  
86.29       ~~prosecuting unsecured claims which have been purchased from any person, firm, or~~  
86.30       ~~association when there is recourse to the seller for all or part of the claim if the claim is not~~  
86.31       ~~collected.~~

87.1       (b) The term "collection agency" shall not include a trade association performing services  
87.2       authorized by section 604.15, subdivision 4a, but the trade association in performing the  
87.3       services may not engage in any conduct that would be prohibited for a collection agency  
87.4       under section 332.37.

87.5       Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

87.6       **Subdivision 1. Requirement.** Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, no person  
87.7       shall conduct ~~within this state a collection agency or engage within this state in the business~~  
87.8       ~~of collecting claims for others~~ business in Minnesota as a collection agency or debt buyer,  
87.9       as defined in sections 332.31 to 332.44, without having first applied for and obtained a  
87.10       collection agency license. A person acting under the authority of a collection agency, debt  
87.11       buyer, or as a collector, must first register with the commissioner under this section. A  
87.12       registered collector may use one additional assumed name only if the assumed name is  
87.13       registered with and approved by the commissioner. A business that operates as a debt buyer  
87.14       must submit a completed license application no later than January 1, 2022. A debt buyer  
87.15       who has filed an application with the commissioner for a collection agency license prior to  
87.16       January 1, 2022, and whose application remains pending with the commissioner thereafter,  
87.17       may continue to operate without a license until the commissioner approves or denies the  
87.18       application.

87.19       Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

87.20       **Subd. 2. Penalty.** A person who carries on business as a collection agency or debt buyer  
87.21       without first having obtained a license or acts as a collector without first having registered  
87.22       with the commissioner pursuant to sections 332.31 to 332.44, or who carries on this business  
87.23       after the revocation, suspension, or expiration of a license or registration is guilty of a  
87.24       misdemeanor.

87.25       Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

87.26       **Subd. 5. ~~Collection agency~~ License rejection.** On finding that an applicant for a  
87.27       ~~collection agency~~ license is not qualified under sections 332.31 to 332.44, the commissioner  
87.28       shall reject the application and shall give the applicant written notice of the rejection and  
87.29       the reasons for the rejection.

88.1 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

88.2 Subd. 5a. **Individual collector registration.** A ~~licensed collection agency licensee~~, on  
88.3 behalf of an individual collector, must register with the state all individuals in the ~~collection~~  
88.4 ~~agency's~~ ~~licensee's~~ employ who are performing the duties of a collector as defined in sections  
88.5 332.31 to 332.44. The ~~collection agency licensee~~ must apply for an individual collection  
88.6 registration in a form prescribed by the commissioner. The ~~collection agency licensee~~ shall  
88.7 verify on the form that the applicant has confirmed that the applicant meets the requirements  
88.8 to perform the duties of a collector as defined in sections 332.31 to 332.44. Upon submission  
88.9 of the application to the department, the individual may begin to perform the duties of a  
88.10 collector and may continue to do so unless the ~~licensed collection agency licensee~~ is informed  
88.11 by the commissioner that the individual is ineligible.

88.12 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

88.13 Subd. 7. **Changes; notice to commissioner.** (a) A ~~licensed collection agency licensee~~  
88.14 must give the commissioner written notice of a change in company name, address, or  
88.15 ownership not later than ten days after the change occurs. A registered individual collector  
88.16 must give written notice of a change of address, name, or assumed name no later than ten  
88.17 days after the change occurs.

88.18 (b) Upon the death of any ~~collection agency~~ licensee, the license of the decedent may  
88.19 be transferred to the executor or administrator of the estate for the unexpired term of the  
88.20 license. The executor or administrator may be authorized to continue or discontinue the  
88.21 collection business of the decedent under the direction of the court having jurisdiction of  
88.22 the probate.

88.23 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

88.24 Subd. 8. **Screening process requirement.** (a) Each ~~licensed collection agency licensee~~  
88.25 must establish procedures to follow when screening an individual collector applicant prior  
88.26 to submitting an applicant to the commissioner for initial registration and at renewal.

88.27 (b) The screening process for initial registration must be done at the time of hiring. The  
88.28 process must include a national criminal history record search, an attorney licensing search,  
88.29 and a county criminal history search for all counties where the applicant has resided within  
88.30 the five years immediately preceding the initial registration, to determine whether the  
88.31 applicant is eligible to be registered under section 332.35. Each ~~licensed collection agency~~  
88.32 ~~licensee~~ shall use a vendor that is a member of the National Association of Professional

89.1      Background Screeners, or an equivalent vendor, to conduct this background screening  
89.2      process.

89.3      (c) Screening for renewal of individual collector registration must include a national  
89.4      criminal history record search and a county criminal history search for all counties where  
89.5      the individual has resided during the immediate preceding year. Screening for renewal of  
89.6      individual collector registrations must take place no more than 60 days before the license  
89.7      expiration or renewal date. A renewal screening is not required if an individual collector  
89.8      has been subjected to an initial background screening within 12 months of the first registration  
89.9      renewal date. A renewal screening is required for all subsequent annual registration renewals.

89.10     (d) The commissioner may review the procedures to ensure the integrity of the screening  
89.11     process. Failure by a ~~licensed collection agency~~ licensee to establish these procedures is  
89.12     subject to action under section 332.40.

89.13     Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.33, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
89.14     read:

89.15     Subd. 9. **Affiliated companies.** The commissioner must permit affiliated companies to  
89.16     operate under a single license and be subject to a single examination, provided that all of  
89.17     the affiliated company names are listed on the license.

89.18     Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.34, is amended to read:

89.19     **332.34 BOND.**

89.20     The commissioner of commerce shall require each ~~collection agency~~ licensee to file and  
89.21     maintain in force a corporate surety bond, in a form to be prescribed by, and acceptable to,  
89.22     the commissioner, and in a sum of at least \$50,000 plus an additional \$5,000 for each  
89.23     \$100,000 received by the collection agency from debtors located in Minnesota during the  
89.24     previous calendar year, less commissions earned by the collection agency on those collections  
89.25     for the previous calendar year. The total amount of the bond shall not exceed \$100,000. A  
89.26     ~~collection agency~~ licensee may deposit cash in and with a depository acceptable to the  
89.27     commissioner in an amount and in the manner prescribed and approved by the commissioner  
89.28     in lieu of a bond.

90.1 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.345, is amended to read:

90.2 **332.345 SEGREGATED ACCOUNTS.**

90.3 A payment collected by a collector or collection agency on behalf of a customer shall  
90.4 be held by the collector or collection agency in a separate trust account clearly designated  
90.5 for customer funds. The account must be in a bank or other depository institution authorized  
90.6 or chartered under the laws of any state or of the United States. This section does not apply  
90.7 to a debt buyer, except to the extent the debt buyer engages in third-party debt collection  
90.8 for others.

90.9 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.355, is amended to read:

90.10 **332.355 AGENCY RESPONSIBILITY FOR COLLECTORS.**

90.11 The commissioner may take action against a ~~collection agency~~ licensee for any violations  
90.12 of debt collection laws by its debt collectors. The commissioner may also take action against  
90.13 the debt collectors themselves for these same violations.

90.14 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.37, is amended to read:

90.15 **332.37 PROHIBITED PRACTICES.**

90.16 (a) No collection agency, debt buyer, or collector shall:

90.17 (1) in collection letters or publications, or in any communication, oral or written threaten  
90.18 wage garnishment or legal suit by a particular lawyer, unless it has actually retained the  
90.19 lawyer;

90.20 (2) use or employ sheriffs or any other officer authorized to serve legal papers in  
90.21 connection with the collection of a claim, except when performing their legally authorized  
90.22 duties;

90.23 (3) use or threaten to use methods of collection which violate Minnesota law;

90.24 (4) furnish legal advice or otherwise engage in the practice of law or represent that it is  
90.25 competent to do so;

90.26 (5) communicate with debtors in a misleading or deceptive manner by using the stationery  
90.27 of a lawyer, forms or instruments which only lawyers are authorized to prepare, or  
90.28 instruments which simulate the form and appearance of judicial process;

90.29 (6) exercise authority on behalf of a ~~creditor~~ client to employ the services of lawyers  
90.30 unless the ~~creditor~~ client has specifically authorized the agency in writing to do so and the

91.1 agency's course of conduct is at all times consistent with a true relationship of attorney and  
91.2 client between the lawyer and the ~~creditor~~ client;

91.3 (7) publish or cause to be published any list of debtors except for credit reporting  
91.4 purposes, use shame cards or shame automobiles, advertise or threaten to advertise for sale  
91.5 any claim as a means of forcing payment thereof, or use similar devices or methods of  
91.6 intimidation;

91.7 (8) refuse to return any claim or claims and all valuable papers deposited with a claim  
91.8 or claims upon written request of the ~~creditor~~ client, claimant or forwarder after tender of  
91.9 the amounts due and owing to ~~the~~ a collection agency within 30 days after the request;  
91.10 refuse or intentionally fail to account to its clients for all money collected within 30 days  
91.11 from the last day of the month in which the same is collected; or, refuse or fail to furnish  
91.12 at intervals of not less than 90 days upon written request of the claimant or forwarder, a  
91.13 written report upon claims received from the claimant or forwarder;

91.14 (9) operate under a name or in a manner which implies that ~~the~~ collection agency or debt  
91.15 buyer is a branch of or associated with any department of federal, state, county or local  
91.16 government or an agency thereof;

91.17 (10) commingle money collected for a customer with ~~the~~ collection agency's operating  
91.18 funds or use any part of a customer's money in the conduct of ~~the~~ collection agency's  
91.19 business;

91.20 (11) transact business or hold itself out as a debt ~~prorater~~ settlement company, debt  
91.21 management company, debt adjuster, or any person who settles, adjusts, prorates, pools,  
91.22 liquidates or pays the indebtedness of a debtor, unless there is no charge to the debtor, or  
91.23 the pooling or liquidation is done pursuant to court order or under the supervision of a  
91.24 creditor's committee;

91.25 (12) violate any of the provisions of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act of 1977,  
91.26 Public Law 95-109, while attempting to collect on any account, bill or other indebtedness;

91.27 (13) communicate with a debtor by use of a recorded message utilizing an automatic  
91.28 dialing announcing device ~~unless the recorded message is immediately preceded by a live~~  
91.29 ~~operator who discloses prior to the message the name of the collection agency and the fact~~  
91.30 ~~the message intends to solicit payment and the operator obtains the consent of the debtor~~  
91.31 ~~to hearing the message after the debtor expressly informs the agency or collector to cease~~  
91.32 ~~communication utilizing an automatic dialing announcing device~~;

92.1        (14) in collection letters or publications, or in any communication, oral or written, imply  
92.2 or suggest that health care services will be withheld in an emergency situation;

92.3        (15) when a debtor has a listed telephone number, enlist the aid of a neighbor or third  
92.4 party to request that the debtor contact the licensee or collector, except a person who resides  
92.5 with the debtor or a third party with whom the debtor has authorized the licensee or collector  
92.6 to place the request. This clause does not apply to a call back message left at the debtor's  
92.7 place of employment which is limited to the licensee's or collector's telephone number and  
92.8 name;

92.9        (16) when attempting to collect a debt, fail to provide the debtor with the full name of  
92.10 the collection agency or debt buyer as it appears on its license or as listed on any "doing  
92.11 business as" or "d/b/a" registered with the Department of Commerce;

92.12        (17) collect any money from a debtor that is not reported to a ~~creditor or client~~;

92.13        (18) fail to return any amount of overpayment from a debtor to the debtor or to the state  
92.14 of Minnesota pursuant to the requirements of chapter 345;

92.15        (18)(19) accept currency or coin as payment for a debt without issuing an original receipt  
92.16 to the debtor and maintaining a duplicate receipt in the debtor's payment records;

92.17        (19)(20) attempt to collect any amount of money, including any interest, fee, charge,  
92.18 or expense incidental to the charge-off obligation, from a debtor or unless the amount is  
92.19 expressly authorized by the agreement creating the debt or is otherwise permitted by law;

92.20        (21) charge a fee to a ~~creditor~~ client that is not authorized by agreement with the client;

92.21        (20)(22) falsify any collection agency documents with the intent to deceive a debtor,  
92.22 creditor, or governmental agency;

92.23        (21)(23) when initially contacting a Minnesota debtor by mail, fail to include a disclosure  
92.24 on the contact notice, in a type size or font which is equal to or larger than the largest other  
92.25 type of type size or font used in the text of the notice. The disclosure must state: "This  
92.26 collection agency is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce" or "This debt  
92.27 buyer is licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce" as applicable; or

92.28        (22)(24) commence legal action to collect a debt outside the limitations period set forth  
92.29 in section 541.053.

92.30        (b) Paragraph (a), clauses (6), (8), (10), (17), and (21), do not apply to debt buyers except  
92.31 to the extent the debt buyer engages in third-party debt collection for others.

93.1 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.385, is amended to read:

93.2 **332.385 NOTIFICATION TO COMMISSIONER.**

93.3 The collection agency or debt buyer licensee shall notify the commissioner of any  
93.4 employee termination within ten days of the termination if it the termination is based in  
93.5 whole or in part based on a violation of this chapter.

93.6 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.40, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

93.7 **Subd. 3. Commissioner's powers.** (a) For the purpose of any investigation or proceeding  
93.8 under sections 332.31 to 332.44, the commissioner or any person designated by the  
93.9 commissioner may administer oaths and affirmations, subpoena collection agencies, debt  
93.10 buyers, or collectors and compel their attendance, take evidence and require the production  
93.11 of any books, papers, correspondence, memoranda, agreements or other documents or  
93.12 records which the commissioner deems relevant or material to the inquiry. The subpoena  
93.13 shall contain a written statement setting forth the circumstances which have reasonably  
93.14 caused the commissioner to believe that a violation of sections 332.31 to 332.44 may have  
93.15 occurred.

93.16 (b) In the event that the collection agency, debt buyer, or collector refuses to obey the  
93.17 subpoena, or should the commissioner, upon completion of the examination of the collection  
93.18 agency, debt buyer, or collector, reasonably conclude that a violation has occurred, the  
93.19 commissioner may examine additional witnesses, including third parties, as may be necessary  
93.20 to complete the investigation.

93.21 (c) Any subpoena issued pursuant to this section shall be served by certified mail or by  
93.22 personal service. Service shall be made at least 15 days prior to the date of appearance.

93.23 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.42, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

93.24 **Subdivision 1. Verified financial statement.** The commissioner of commerce may at  
93.25 any time require a ~~collection agency~~ licensee to submit a verified financial statement for  
93.26 examination by the commissioner to determine whether the ~~collection agency~~ licensee is  
93.27 financially responsible to carry on a collection ~~agency~~ business within the intents and  
93.28 purposes of sections 332.31 to 332.44.

93.29 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 332.42, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

93.30 **Subd. 2. Record keeping.** The commissioner shall require the collection agency or debt  
93.31 buyer licensee to keep such books and records in the licensee's place of business in this

94.1 state as will enable the commissioner to determine whether there has been compliance with  
94.2 the provisions of sections 332.31 to 332.44, unless the agency is a foreign corporation duly  
94.3 authorized, admitted, and licensed to do business in this state and complies with all the  
94.4 requirements of chapter 303 and with all other requirements of sections 332.31 to 332.44.  
94.5 Every collection agency licensee shall preserve the records of final entry used in such  
94.6 business for a period of five years after final remittance is made on any amount placed with  
94.7 the licensee for collection or after any account has been returned to the claimant on which  
94.8 one or more payments have been made. Every debt buyer licensee must preserve the records  
94.9 of final entry used in the business for a period of five years after final collection of any  
94.10 purchased account.

94.11 **Sec. 22. GARNISHMENT PROHIBITIONS ON COVID-19 GOVERNMENT**  
94.12 **ASSISTANCE.**

94.13 (a) Federal, state, local, and tribal governmental payments issued to relieve the adverse  
94.14 economic impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are exempt from all claims for  
94.15 garnishments and levies of consumer debtors of debt primarily for personal, family, or  
94.16 household purposes governed by Minnesota Statutes, chapters 550, 551, and 571.

94.17 (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to domestic support orders and obligations, including  
94.18 child support and spousal maintenance obligations, including but not limited to orders and  
94.19 obligations under Minnesota Statutes, chapters 518 and 518A.

94.20 (c) This section expires on December 31, 2022.

94.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.** This section is effective the day following  
94.22 final enactment and applies to government assistance provided on or after March 13, 2020.

94.23 **ARTICLE 6**  
94.24 **COMMERCE MISCELLANEOUS**

94.25 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 45.305, subdivision 1, is amended to read:  
94.26 **Subdivision 1. Appraiser and Insurance Internet prelicense courses.** The design and  
94.27 delivery of ~~an appraiser prelicense education course or~~ an insurance prelicense education  
94.28 course must be approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center  
94.29 (IDECC) before the course is submitted for the commissioner's approval.

95.1        Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 45.305, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
95.2        read:

95.3        **Subd. 1a. Appraiser Internet prelicense courses.** The requirements for the design and  
95.4        delivery of an appraiser prelicense education course are the requirements established by the  
95.5        Appraiser Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation and published in the most  
95.6        recent version of the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria.

95.7        Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 45.306, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
95.8        read:

95.9        **Subd. 1a. Appraiser Internet continuing education courses.** The requirements for the  
95.10        design and delivery of an appraiser continuing education course are the requirements  
95.11        established by the Appraiser Qualifications Board of the Appraisal Foundation and published  
95.12        in the most recent version of the Real Property Appraiser Qualification Criteria.

95.13       Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 45.33, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

95.14       **Subdivision 1. Prohibitions.** In connection with an approved course, coordinators and  
95.15       instructors must not:

- 95.16       (1) recommend or promote the services or practices of a particular business;
- 95.17       (2) encourage or recruit individuals to engage the services of, or become associated with,  
95.18       a particular business;
- 95.19       (3) use materials, clothing, or other evidences of affiliation with a particular entity,  
95.20       except as provided under subdivision 3;
- 95.21       (4) require students to participate in other programs or services offered by the instructor,  
95.22       coordinator, or education provider;
- 95.23       (5) attempt, either directly or indirectly, to discover questions or answers on an  
95.24       examination for a license;
- 95.25       (6) disseminate to any other person specific questions, problems, or information known  
95.26       or believed to be included in licensing examinations;
- 95.27       (7) misrepresent any information submitted to the commissioner;
- 95.28       (8) fail to cover, or ensure coverage of, all points, issues, and concepts contained in the  
95.29       course outline approved by the commissioner during the approved instruction; and
- 95.30       (9) issue inaccurate course completion certificates.

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

96.1 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 45.33, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
96.2 read:

96.3 **Subd. 3. Exceptions.** In connection with an approved course, coordinators and instructors  
96.4 may:

96.5 (1) display a company or course provider's logo or branding;

96.6 (2) establish a trade-show or conference booth outside the classroom where the  
96.7 educational content is being delivered that is separate from a registration location used to  
96.8 track or facilitate student attendance;

96.9 (3) display the logo or branding associated with a particular entity to thank the entity as  
96.10 an organizational partner of the course provider during a scheduled and approved break in  
96.11 the delivery of course content. The display must be separate from a registration location  
96.12 used to track or facilitate student attendance; and

96.13 (4) display a third-party logo, promotion, advertisement, or affiliation with a particular  
96.14 entity as part of a course program or advertising for an approved course. For purposes of  
96.15 this subdivision, course program means digital or paper literature describing the schedule  
96.16 of the events, presenters, duration, or background information of the approved course or  
96.17 courses. A course program may be made available in the classroom or at a registration  
96.18 location used to track or facilitate student attendance.

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

96.20 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 60A.71, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

96.21 **Subd. 7. Duration; fees.** (a) Each applicant for a reinsurance intermediary license shall  
96.22 pay to the commissioner a fee of \$200 for an initial two-year license and a fee of \$150 for  
96.23 each renewal. Applications shall be submitted on forms prescribed by the commissioner.

96.24 (b) Initial licenses issued under this chapter are valid for a period not to exceed 24 months  
96.25 and expire on October 31 of the renewal year assigned by the commissioner. Each renewal  
96.26 reinsurance intermediary license is valid for a period of 24 months. Licensees who submit  
96.27 renewal applications postmarked or delivered on or before October 15 of the renewal year  
96.28 may continue to transact business whether or not the renewal license has been received by  
96.29 November 1. Licensees who submit applications postmarked or delivered after October 15  
96.30 of the renewal year must not transact business after the expiration date of the license until  
96.31 the renewal license has been received.

97.1       (c) All fees are nonreturnable, except that an overpayment of any fee may be refunded  
97.2       upon proper application.

97.3       Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 79.55, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

97.4       Subd. 10. **Duties of commissioner; report.** ~~The commissioner shall issue a report by~~  
97.5 ~~March 1 of each year, comparing the average rates charged by workers' compensation~~  
97.6 ~~insurers in the state to the pure premium base rates filed by the association, as reviewed by~~  
97.7 ~~the Rate Oversight Commission. The Rate Oversight Commission shall review the~~  
97.8 ~~commissioner's report and if the experience indicates that rates have not reasonably reflected~~  
97.9 ~~changes in pure premiums, the rate oversight commission shall recommend to the legislature~~  
97.10 ~~appropriate legislative changes to this chapter.~~

97.11       (a) By March 1 of each year, the commissioner must issue a report that evaluates the  
97.12 competitiveness of the workers' compensation market in Minnesota in order to evaluate  
97.13 whether the competitive rating law is working.

97.14       (b) The report under this subdivision must: (1) compare the average rates charged by  
97.15 workers' compensation insurers in Minnesota with the pure premium base rates filed by the  
97.16 association; and (2) provide market information, including but not limited to the number of  
97.17 carriers, market shares, the loss-cost multipliers used by companies, and the residual market  
97.18 and self-insurance.

97.19       (c) The commissioner must provide the report to the Rate Oversight Commission for  
97.20 review. If after reviewing the report the Rate Oversight Commission concludes that concerns  
97.21 exist regarding the competitiveness of the workers' compensation market in Minnesota, the  
97.22 Rate Oversight Commission must recommend to the legislature appropriate modifications  
97.23 to this chapter.

97.24       Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 80G.06, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

97.25       Subdivision 1. **Surety bond requirement.** (a) Every dealer shall maintain a current,  
97.26 valid surety bond issued by a surety company admitted to do business in Minnesota in an  
97.27 amount based on the transactions conducted with Minnesota consumers (purchases from  
97.28 and sales to consumers at retail) during the 12-month period prior to registration, or renewal,  
97.29 whichever is applicable.

97.30       (b) The amount of the surety bond shall be as specified in the table below:

97.31       Transaction Amount in Preceding 97.32       12-month Period	97.33       Surety Bond Required
97.33       \$25,000 <u>\$0 to \$200,000</u>	97.33       \$25,000

98.1	\$200,000.01 to \$500,000	\$50,000
98.2	\$500,000.01 to \$1,000,000	\$100,000
98.3	\$1,000,000.01 to \$2,000,000	\$150,000
98.4	Over \$2,000,000	\$200,000

98.5 Sec. 9. **80G.11] NOTIFICATION TO COMMISSIONER.**

98.6 A dealer must notify the commissioner of any dealer representative termination within  
98.7 ten days of the termination if the termination is based in whole or in part on a violation of  
98.8 this chapter.

98.9 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82.57, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

98.10 Subdivision 1. **Amounts.** The following fees shall be paid to the commissioner:

98.11 (a) a fee of \$150 for each initial individual broker's license, and a fee of \$100 for each  
98.12 renewal thereof;

98.13 (b) a fee of \$70 for each initial salesperson's license, and a fee of \$40 for each renewal  
98.14 thereof;

98.15 (c) a fee of \$85 for each initial real estate closing agent license, and a fee of \$60 for each  
98.16 renewal thereof;

98.17 (d) a fee of \$150 for each initial corporate, limited liability company, or partnership  
98.18 license, and a fee of \$100 for each renewal thereof;

98.19 (e) a fee for payment to the education, research and recovery fund in accordance with  
98.20 section 82.86;

98.21 (f) a fee of \$20 for each transfer;

98.22 (g) a fee of \$50 for license reinstatement;

98.23 (h) a fee of \$20 for reactivating a corporate, limited liability company, or partnership  
98.24 license; and

98.25 (i) in addition to the fees required under this subdivision, individual licensees under  
98.26 clauses (a) and (b) shall pay, for each initial license and renewal, a technology surcharge  
98.27 of up to \$40 under section 45.24, unless the commissioner has adjusted the surcharge as  
98.28 permitted under that section.

99.1 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82.57, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

99.2 **Subd. 5. Initial license expiration; fee reduction.** ~~If an initial license issued under subdivision 1, paragraph (a), (b), (c), or (d) expires less than 12 months after issuance, the license fee shall be reduced by an amount equal to one-half the fee for a renewal of the license. An initial license issued under this chapter expires in the year that results in the term of the license being at least 12 months, but no more than 24 months.~~

99.7 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82.62, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

99.8 **Subd. 3. Timely renewals.** ~~A person whose application for a license renewal has not been timely submitted and who has not received notice of approval of renewal may not continue to transact business either as a real estate broker, salesperson, or closing agent after June 30 of the renewal year until approval of renewal is received. Application for renewal of a license is timely submitted if: all requirements for renewal, including continuing education requirements, have been completed and reported pursuant to section 45.43, subdivision 1.~~

99.15 ~~(1) all requirements for renewal, including continuing education requirements, have been completed by June 15 of the renewal year; and~~

99.17 ~~(2) the application is submitted before the renewal deadline in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, duly executed and sworn to, accompanied by fees prescribed by this chapter, and containing any information the commissioner requires.~~

99.20 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82.81, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

99.21 **Subd. 12. Fraudulent, deceptive, and dishonest practices.** **(a) Prohibitions.** For the purposes of section 82.82, subdivision 1, clause (b), the following acts and practices constitute fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest practices:

99.24 (1) act on behalf of more than one party to a transaction without the knowledge and consent of all parties;

99.26 (2) act in the dual capacity of licensee and undisclosed principal in any transaction;

99.27 (3) receive funds while acting as principal which funds would constitute trust funds if received by a licensee acting as an agent, unless the funds are placed in a trust account.

99.29 Funds need not be placed in a trust account if a written agreement signed by all parties to the transaction specifies a different disposition of the funds, in accordance with section 82.82, subdivision 1;

100.1 (4) violate any state or federal law concerning discrimination intended to protect the  
100.2 rights of purchasers or renters of real estate;

100.3 (5) make a material misstatement in an application for a license or in any information  
100.4 furnished to the commissioner;

100.5 (6) procure or attempt to procure a real estate license for ~~himself or herself~~ the procuring  
100.6 individual or any person by fraud, misrepresentation, or deceit;

100.7 (7) represent membership in any real estate-related organization in which the licensee  
100.8 is not a member;

100.9 (8) advertise in any manner that is misleading or inaccurate with respect to properties,  
100.10 terms, values, policies, or services conducted by the licensee;

100.11 (9) make any material misrepresentation or permit or allow another to make any material  
100.12 misrepresentation;

100.13 (10) make any false or misleading statements, or permit or allow another to make any  
100.14 false or misleading statements, of a character likely to influence, persuade, or induce the  
100.15 consummation of a transaction contemplated by this chapter;

100.16 (11) fail within a reasonable time to account for or remit any money coming into the  
100.17 licensee's possession which belongs to another;

100.18 (12) commingle with ~~his or her~~ the individual's own money or property trust funds or  
100.19 any other money or property of another held by the licensee;

100.20 (13) a demand from a seller for a commission to or compensation to which the licensee  
100.21 is not entitled, knowing that ~~he or she~~ the individual is not entitled to the commission or  
100.22 compensation;

100.23 (14) pay or give money or goods of value to an unlicensed person for any assistance or  
100.24 information relating to the procurement by a licensee of a listing of a property or of a  
100.25 prospective buyer of a property (this item does not apply to money or goods paid or given  
100.26 to the parties to the transaction);

100.27 (15) fail to maintain a trust account at all times, as provided by law;

100.28 (16) engage, with respect to the offer, sale, or rental of real estate, in an anticompetitive  
100.29 activity;

100.30 (17) represent on advertisements, cards, signs, circulars, letterheads, or in any other  
100.31 manner, that ~~he or she~~ the individual is engaged in the business of financial planning unless  
100.32 ~~he or she~~ the individual provides a disclosure document to the client. The document must

101.1 be signed by the client and a copy must be left with the client. The disclosure document  
101.2 must contain the following:

101.3 (i) the basis of fees, commissions, or other compensation received by ~~him or her~~ an  
101.4 individual in connection with rendering of financial planning services or financial counseling  
101.5 or advice in the following language:

101.6 "My compensation may be based on the following:

101.7 (a) ... commissions generated from the products I sell you;

101.8 (b) ... fees; or

101.9 (c) ... a combination of (a) and (b). [Comments]";

101.10 (ii) the name and address of any company or firm that supplies the financial services or  
101.11 products offered or sold by ~~him or her~~ an individual in the following language:

101.12 "I am authorized to offer or sell products and/or services issued by or through the  
101.13 following firm(s):

101.14 [List]

101.15 The products will be traded, distributed, or placed through the clearing/trading firm(s)  
101.16 of:

101.17 [List]";

101.18 (iii) the license(s) held by the person under this chapter or chapter 60A or 80A in the  
101.19 following language:

101.20 "I am licensed in Minnesota as a(n):

101.21 (a) ... insurance agent;

101.22 (b) ... securities agent or broker/dealer;

101.23 (c) ... real estate broker or salesperson;

101.24 (d) ... investment adviser"; and

101.25 (iv) the specific identity of any financial products or services, by category, for example  
101.26 mutual funds, stocks, or limited partnerships, the person is authorized to offer or sell in the  
101.27 following language:

101.28 "The license(s) entitles me to offer and sell the following products and/or services:

101.29 (a) ... securities, specifically the following: [List];

102.1        (b) ... real property;

102.2        (c) ... insurance; and

102.3        (d) ... other: [List]."

102.4        (b) **Determining violation.** A licensee shall be deemed to have violated this section if  
102.5        the licensee has been found to have violated sections 325D.49 to 325D.66, by a final decision  
102.6        or order of a court of competent jurisdiction.

102.7        (c) **Commissioner's authority.** Nothing in this section limits the authority of the  
102.8        commissioner to take actions against a licensee for fraudulent, deceptive, or dishonest  
102.9        practices not specifically described in this section.

102.10       Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.021, is amended by adding a subdivision  
102.11       to read:

102.12       Subd. 14a. **Evaluation.** "Evaluation" means an estimate of the value of real property,  
102.13       made in accordance with the Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines provided to  
102.14       an entity regulated by a federal financial institution's regulatory agency, for use in a real  
102.15       estate-related financial transaction for which an appraisal is not required by federal law.

102.16       Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.021, is amended by adding a subdivision  
102.17       to read:

102.18       Subd. 16a. **Interagency Appraisal and Evaluation Guidelines.** "Interagency Appraisal  
102.19       and Evaluation Guidelines" means the appraisal and evaluation guidelines provided by a  
102.20       federal financial institution's regulatory agency, as provided by Federal Register, volume  
102.21       75, page 77450 (2010), as amended.

102.22       Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.021, subdivision 18, is amended to read:

102.23       Subd. 18. **Licensed real property appraiser.** "Licensed real property appraiser" means  
102.24       an individual licensed under this chapter to perform appraisals on noncomplex one-family  
102.25       to four-family residential units or agricultural property having a transactional value of less  
102.26       than \$1,000,000 and complex one-family to four-family residential units or agricultural  
102.27       property having a transactional value of less than \$250,000 \$400,000.

103.1 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.03, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
103.2 read:

103.3 Subd. 3. **Evaluation.** A licensed real estate appraiser may provide an evaluation. When  
103.4 providing an evaluation, a licensed real estate appraiser is not engaged in real estate appraisal  
103.5 activity and is not subject to this chapter. An evaluation by a licensed real estate appraiser  
103.6 under this subdivision must contain a disclosure that the evaluation is not an appraisal.

103.7 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.11, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

103.8 **Subd. 3. Licensed residential real property appraiser.** A licensed residential real  
103.9 property appraiser may appraise noncomplex residential property or agricultural property  
103.10 having a transaction value less than \$1,000,000 and complex residential or agricultural  
103.11 property having a transaction value less than \$250,000 \$400,000.

103.12 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 82B.195, is amended by adding a subdivision  
103.13 to read:

103.14 Subd. 5. **Evaluation.** When providing an evaluation, a licensed real estate appraiser is  
103.15 not required to comply with the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

103.16 Sec. 20. **[82B.25] VALUATION BIAS.**

103.17 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "valuation bias" means to  
103.18 explicitly, implicitly, or structurally select data and apply that data to an appraisal  
103.19 methodology or technique in a biased manner that harms a protected class, as defined by  
103.20 the Fair Housing Act of 1968, as amended.

103.21 Subd. 2. **Education.** Within two years of receiving a license under this chapter, and as  
103.22 required by the Appraiser Qualifications Board, a real property appraiser shall provide to  
103.23 the commissioner evidence of satisfactory completion of a continuing education course on  
103.24 the valuation bias of real property.

103.25 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 1, 2021. A real property  
103.26 appraiser who has received their license prior to the effective date of this section must  
103.27 complete the course required by this section by August 31, 2023.

104.1 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 115C.094, is amended to read:

104.2 **115C.094 ABANDONED UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS.**

104.3 (a) As used in this section, an abandoned underground petroleum storage tank means

104.4 an underground petroleum storage tank that was:

104.5 (1) taken out of service prior to December 22, 1988; or

104.6 (2) taken out of service on or after December 22, 1988, if the current property owner  
104.7 did not know of the existence of the underground petroleum storage tank and could not have  
104.8 reasonably been expected to have known of the tank's existence at the time the owner first  
104.9 acquired right, title, or interest in the tank; or

104.10 (3) taken out of service and is located on property that is being held by the state in trust  
104.11 for local taxing districts under section 281.25.

104.12 (b) The board may contract for:

104.13 (1) a statewide assessment in order to determine the quantity, location, cost, and feasibility  
104.14 of removing abandoned underground petroleum storage tanks;

104.15 (2) the removal of an abandoned underground petroleum storage tank; and

104.16 (3) the removal and disposal of petroleum-contaminated soil if the removal is required  
104.17 by the commissioner at the time of tank removal.

104.18 (c) Before the board may contract for removal of an abandoned petroleum storage tank,  
104.19 the tank owner must provide the board with written access to the property and release the  
104.20 board from any potential liability for the work performed.

104.21 (d) If at the time of the forfeiture of property identified under paragraph (a), clause (3),  
104.22 the property owner or the owner's heirs, devisees, or representatives, or any person to whom  
104.23 the right to pay taxes was granted by statute, mortgage, or other agreement, repurchases the  
104.24 property under section 282.241, the board's contracted costs for the underground storage  
104.25 tank removal project must be included as a special assessment included in the repurchase  
104.26 price, as provided under section 282.251, and must be returned to the board upon the sale  
104.27 of the property.

104.28 (d) (e) Money in the fund is appropriated to the board for the purposes of this section.

104.29 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 308A.201, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

104.30 Subd. 12. **Electric cooperative powers.** (a) An electric cooperative has the power and  
104.31 authority to:

105.1        (1) make loans to its members;

105.2        (2) prerefund debt;

105.3        (3) obtain funds through negotiated financing or public sale;

105.4        (4) borrow money and issue its bonds, debentures, notes, or other evidence of  
105.5        indebtedness;

105.6        (5) mortgage, pledge, or otherwise hypothecate its assets as may be necessary;

105.7        (6) invest its resources;

105.8        (7) deposit money in state and national banks and trust companies authorized to receive  
105.9        deposits; and

105.10       (8) exercise all other powers and authorities granted to cooperatives.

105.11       (b) A cooperative organized to provide rural electric power may enter agreements and  
105.12       contracts with other electric power cooperatives or with a cooperative constituted of electric  
105.13       power cooperatives to share losses and risk of losses to their transmission and distribution  
105.14       lines, transformers, substations, and related appurtenances from storm, sleet, hail, tornado,  
105.15       cyclone, hurricane, or windstorm. An agreement or contract or a cooperative formed to  
105.16       share losses under this paragraph is not subject to the laws of this state relating to insurance  
105.17       and insurance companies.

105.18       (c) An electric cooperative, an affiliate of the cooperative formed to provide broadband,  
105.19       or another entity pursuant to an agreement with the cooperative or the cooperative's affiliate  
105.20       may use the cooperative, affiliate, or entity's existing or subsequently acquired electric  
105.21       transmission or distribution easements for broadband infrastructure and to provide broadband  
105.22       service, which may include an agreement to lease fiber capacity. To exercise rights granted  
105.23       under this paragraph, the cooperative must provide to the property owner on which the  
105.24       easement is located two written notices, at least two months apart, that the cooperative  
105.25       intends to use the easement for broadband purposes. The use of the easement for broadband  
105.26       services vests and runs with the land beginning six months after the first notice is provided  
105.27       under paragraph (d) unless a court action challenging the use of the easement for broadband  
105.28       purposes has been filed before that time by the property owner as provided under paragraph  
105.29       (e). The cooperative must also file evidence of the notices for recording with the county  
105.30       recorder.

105.31       (d) The cooperative's notices under paragraph (c) must be sent by first class mail to the  
105.32       last known address of the owner of the property on which the easement is located or by  
105.33       printed insertion in the property owner's utility bill. The notice must include the following:

106.1 (1) the name and mailing address of the cooperative;

106.2 (2) a narrative describing the nature and purpose of the intended easement use;

106.3 (3) a description of any trenching or other underground work expected to result from

106.4 the intended use, including the anticipated time frame for the work;

106.5 (4) a phone number of a cooperative employee to contact regarding the easement; and

106.6 (5) the following statement, in bold red lettering: "It is important to make any challenge

106.7 by the deadline to preserve any legal rights you may have."

106.8 (e) A property owner, within six months after receiving notice under paragraph (d), may

106.9 commence an action seeking to recover damages for an electric cooperative's use of an

106.10 electric transmission or distribution easement for broadband service purposes. If the claim

106.11 for damages is under \$15,000, the claim may be brought in conciliation court.

106.12 Notwithstanding any other law to the contrary, the procedures and substantive matters set

106.13 forth in this subdivision govern an action under this paragraph and are the exclusive means

106.14 to bring a claim for compensation with respect to a notice of intent to use a cooperative

106.15 transmission or distribution easement for broadband purposes. To commence an action

106.16 under this paragraph, the property owner must serve a complaint upon the electric cooperative

106.17 as in a civil action and file the complaint with the district court for the county in which the

106.18 easement is located. The complaint must state whether the property owner (1) is challenging

106.19 the electric cooperative's right to use the easement for broadband services or infrastructure

106.20 as authorized under paragraph (c), (2) is seeking damages as provided under paragraph (f),

106.21 or (3) both.

106.22 (f) If the property owner is seeking damages, the electric cooperative may, at any time

106.23 after answering the complaint, (1) deposit with the court administrator an amount equal to

106.24 the cooperative's estimate of damages, up to \$5,000, and (2) after making the deposit, use

106.25 the electric transmission or service line easements for broadband purposes, conditioned on

106.26 an obligation to pay the amount of damages determined by the court. If the property owner

106.27 is challenging the electric cooperative's right to use the easement for broadband services or

106.28 infrastructure as authorized under paragraph (c), after the electric cooperative answers the

106.29 complaint the district court must promptly hold a hearing on the property owner's challenge.

106.30 If the district court denies the property owner's challenge, the electric cooperative may

106.31 proceed to make a deposit and make use of the easement for broadband service purposes,

106.32 as provided under clause (2).

106.33 (g) In an action involving a property owner's claim for damages, the landowner has the

106.34 burden to prove the existence and amount of any net reduction in the fair market value of

107.1 the property, considering the existence, installation, construction, maintenance, modification,  
107.2 operation, repair, replacement, or removal of broadband infrastructure in the easement, as  
107.3 well as any benefit to the property from access to broadband service. Consequential or  
107.4 special damages must not be awarded. Evidence of revenue, profits, fees, income, or similar  
107.5 benefits to the electric cooperative, the cooperative's affiliate, or a third party is inadmissible.  
107.6 Any fees or costs incurred as a result of an action under this subdivision must be paid by  
107.7 the party that incurred the fees or costs.

107.8 (h) Nothing in this section limits in any way an electric cooperative's existing easement  
107.9 rights, including but not limited to rights an electric cooperative has or may acquire to  
107.10 transmit communications for electric system operations or otherwise.

107.11 (i) Placement of broadband infrastructure for use in providing broadband service under  
107.12 paragraphs (c) to (h) in any portion of an electric transmission or distribution easement  
107.13 located in the public right-of-way is subject to local government permitting and right-of-way  
107.14 management authority under section 237.163, and the placement must be coordinated with  
107.15 the relevant local government unit to minimize potential future relocations. The cooperative  
107.16 must notify a local government unit prior to placing infrastructure for broadband service in  
107.17 an easement that is in or adjacent to the local government unit's public right-of-way.

107.18 (j) For purposes of this subdivision:

107.19 (1) "broadband infrastructure" has the meaning given in section 116J.394; and  
107.20 (2) "broadband service" means broadband infrastructure and any services provided over  
107.21 the infrastructure that offer advanced telecommunications capability and Internet access.

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

107.23 Sec. 23. **[332.61] INFORMATIVE DISCLOSURE.**

107.24 A lead generator must prominently make the following disclosure on all print, electronic,  
107.25 and nonprint solicitations, including advertising on websites, radio, or television: "This  
107.26 company does not actually provide any of the credit services you are seeking. We ONLY  
107.27 refer you to companies that want to provide some or all of those services."

108.1 Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 349.11, is amended to read:

108.2 **349.11 PURPOSE.**

108.3 The purpose of sections 349.11 to 349.22 is to regulate lawful gambling, to insure  
108.4 integrity of operations, and to provide for the use of net profits only for lawful purposes,  
108.5 and to authorize only those games or game features discussed in this chapter.

108.6 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 6, 2022.

108.7 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 349.12, subdivision 12a, is amended to read:

108.8 Subd. 12a. **Electronic bingo device.** "Electronic bingo device" means a handheld and  
108.9 portable electronic device that:

108.10 (1) is used by a bingo player to:

108.11 (i) monitor bingo paper sheets or a facsimile of a bingo paper sheet purchased and played  
108.12 at the time and place of an organization's bingo occasion, or to play an electronic bingo  
108.13 game that is linked with other permitted premises;

108.14 (ii) activate numbers announced or displayed, and to compare the numbers to the bingo  
108.15 faces previously stored in the memory of the device;

108.16 (iii) identify a winning bingo pattern or game requirement; and

108.17 (iv) play against other bingo players;

108.18 (2) limits the play of bingo faces to 36 faces per game;

108.19 (3) requires coded entry to activate play but does not allow the use of a coin, currency,  
108.20 or tokens to be inserted to activate play;

108.21 (4) may only be used for play against other bingo players in a bingo game;

108.22 (5) may only display the results of the electronic bingo game in a manner typically  
108.23 associated with bingo played in a paper format, may only display the grid of numbers and  
108.24 letters typically associated with paper bingo, and may not display or simulate any other  
108.25 form of gambling, entertainment, slot machines, electronic video lotteries, or video games  
108.26 of chance;

108.27 (6) has no spinning reels or other representations that mimic a slot machine, including  
108.28 but not limited to nonstraight win line graphics, nonstraight pay line graphics, open all  
108.29 features, single button press reveals, hold and spin features, delayed reveals, cascading or  
108.30 tumbling reveals, bonus games, bonus wheels, free play, free spins, or screens or game

109.1 features that are triggered after the initial symbols are revealed that display the results of  
109.2 the game;

109.3 (5)(7) has no additional function as an amusement or gambling device other than as an  
109.4 electronic pull-tab game defined under section 349.12, subdivision 12c;

109.5 (6)(8) has the capability to ensure adequate levels of security internal controls;

109.6 (7)(9) has the capability to permit the board to electronically monitor the operation of  
109.7 the device and the internal accounting systems; and

109.8 (8)(10) has the capability to allow use by a player who is visually impaired.

109.9 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 6, 2022.

109.10 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 349.12, subdivision 12b, is amended to read:

109.11 Subd. 12b. **Electronic pull-tab device.** "Electronic pull-tab device" means a handheld  
109.12 and portable electronic device that:

109.13 (1) is used to play one or more electronic pull-tab games;

109.14 (2) requires coded entry to activate play but does not allow the use of coin, currency, or  
109.15 tokens to be inserted to activate play;

109.16 (3) requires that a player must manually activate or open each electronic pull-tab ticket  
109.17 and also manually activate or open each individual line, row, or column of each electronic  
109.18 pull-tab ticket symbols on each electronic pull-tab ticket with a separate push of a button,  
109.19 and must display the underlying symbols in a given line, row, or column immediately after  
109.20 the player manually activates or opens the applicable line, row, or column of symbols;

109.21 (4) maintains information pertaining to accumulated win credits that may be applied to  
109.22 games in play or redeemed upon termination of play;

109.23 (5) may only display the results of the electronic pull-tab game in a manner typically  
109.24 associated with paper pull-tabs tickets, may only display symbols typically associated with  
109.25 paper pull-tab tickets, may not include continuation play, bonus games, or additional screens  
109.26 or game features that display the results of the game after the initial symbols are revealed,  
109.27 and may not display or simulate any other form of gambling, entertainment, slot machines,  
109.28 electronic video lotteries, or video games of chance;

109.29 (5)(6) has no spinning reels or other representations that mimic a video slot machine,  
109.30 including but not limited to nonstraight win line graphics, nonstraight pay line graphics,  
109.31 open all features, single button press reveals, hold and spin features, delayed reveals,

110.1 cascading or tumbling reveals, bonus games, bonus wheels, free play, free spins, progressive  
110.2 prizes or jackpots, or screens or game features that are triggered after the initial symbols  
110.3 are revealed that display the results of the game;  
110.4 ~~(6)~~(7) has no additional function as a gambling device other than as an electronic-linked  
110.5 bingo game played on a device defined under section 349.12, subdivision 12a;  
110.6 ~~(7)~~(8) may incorporate an amusement game feature as part of the pull-tab game but  
110.7 may not require additional consideration for that feature or award any prize, or other benefit  
110.8 for that feature;  
110.9 ~~(8)~~(9) may have auditory or visual enhancements to promote or provide information  
110.10 about the game being played, provided the component does not affect the outcome of a  
110.11 game or display the results of a game;  
110.12 ~~(9)~~(10) maintains, on nonresettable meters, a printable, permanent record of all  
110.13 transactions involving each device and electronic pull-tab games played on the device;  
110.14 ~~(10)~~(11) is not a pull-tab dispensing device as defined under subdivision 32a; and  
110.15 ~~(11)~~(12) has the capability to allow use by a player who is visually impaired.

110.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 6, 2022.

110.17 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 349.12, subdivision 12c, is amended to read:  
110.18 Subd. 12c. **Electronic pull-tab game.** "Electronic pull-tab game" means a pull-tab game  
110.19 containing:  
110.20 (1) facsimiles of pull-tab tickets that are played on an electronic pull-tab device, provided  
110.21 that any game with multiple lines, rows, or columns of symbols requires a separate push of  
110.22 a button to reveal the symbols underneath the applicable line, row, or column and results  
110.23 are displayed pursuant to subdivision 12b;  
110.24 (2) a predetermined, finite number of winning and losing tickets, not to exceed 7,500  
110.25 tickets;  
110.26 (3) the same price for each ticket in the game;  
110.27 (4) a price paid by the player of not less than 25 cents per ticket;  
110.28 (5) tickets that are in conformance with applicable board rules for pull-tabs;  
110.29 (6) winning tickets that comply with prize limits under section 349.211;  
110.30 (7) a unique serial number that may not be regenerated;

111.1 (8) an electronic flare that displays the game name; form number; predetermined, finite  
111.2 number of tickets in the game; and prize tier; and  
  
111.3 (9) no spinning reels or other representations that mimic a video slot machine as provided  
111.4 in subdivision 12b, clause (6).

111.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective September 6, 2022.

111.6 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 386.375, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

111.7 Subd. 3. **Consumer education information.** (a) A person other than the mortgagor or  
111.8 fee owner who transfers or offers to transfer an abstract of title shall present to the mortgagor  
111.9 or fee owner basic information in plain English about abstracts of title. This information  
111.10 must be sent in a form prepared and approved by the commissioner of commerce and must  
111.11 contain at least the following items:

111.12 (1) a definition and description of abstracts of title;  
111.13 (2) an explanation that holders of abstracts of title must maintain it with reasonable care;  
111.14 (3) an approximate cost or range of costs to replace a lost or damaged abstract of title;  
111.15 and  
111.16 (4) ~~an explanation that abstracts of title may be required to sell, finance, or refinance~~  
111.17 ~~real estate; and~~  
111.18 (5) (4) an explanation of options for storage of abstracts.

111.19 (b) The commissioner shall prepare the form for use under this subdivision as soon as  
111.20 possible. This subdivision does not apply until 60 days after the form is approved by the  
111.21 commissioner.

111.22 (c) A person violating this subdivision is subject to a penalty of \$200 for each violation.

111.23 Sec. 29. **APPRAISER INTERNET COURSE REQUIREMENTS.**

111.24 Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 45.305, subdivision 1a, and 45.306,  
111.25 subdivision 1a, education providers may submit to the commissioner of commerce for  
111.26 approval a classroom course under Minnesota Statutes, section 45.25, subdivision 2a, clause  
111.27 (3), or a distance learning course, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 45.25, subdivision  
111.28 5a, that has not been approved by the International Distance Education Certification Center.

111.29 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and  
111.30 expires after the peacetime emergency declared by the governor in an executive order that

112.1 relates to the infectious disease known as COVID-19 is terminated or rescinded or December  
112.2 31, 2021, whichever is later.

112.3 **Sec. 30. MINNESOTA COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC EDUCATION.**

112.4 (a) The Minnesota Council on Economic Education, with funds made available through  
112.5 grants from the commissioner of education in fiscal years 2022 and 2023, must:

112.6 (1) provide professional development to Minnesota's kindergarten through grade 12  
112.7 teachers implementing state graduation standards in learning areas related to economic  
112.8 education;

112.9 (2) support the direct-to-student ancillary economic and personal finance programs that  
112.10 Minnesota teachers supervise and coach; and

112.11 (3) provide support to geographically diverse affiliated higher education-based centers  
112.12 for economic education, including those based at Minnesota State University Mankato,  
112.13 Minnesota State University Moorhead, St. Cloud State University, St. Catherine University,  
112.14 and the University of St. Thomas, as the centers' work relates to activities in clauses (1) and  
112.15 (2).

112.16 (b) By February 15 of each year following the receipt of a grant, the Minnesota Council  
112.17 on Economic Education must report to the commissioner of education on the number and  
112.18 type of in-person and online teacher professional development opportunities provided by  
112.19 the Minnesota Council on Economic Education or affiliated state centers. The report must  
112.20 include a description of the content, length, and location of the programs; the number of  
112.21 preservice and licensed teachers receiving professional development through each of these  
112.22 opportunities; and a summary of evaluations of professional opportunities for teachers.

112.23 (c) On August 15, 2021, the Department of Education must pay the full amount of the  
112.24 grant for fiscal year 2022 to the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. On August  
112.25 15, 2022, the Department of Education must pay the full amount of the grant for fiscal year  
112.26 2023 to the Minnesota Council on Economic Education. The Minnesota Council on Economic  
112.27 Education must submit its fiscal reporting in the form and manner specified by the  
112.28 commissioner. The commissioner may request additional information as necessary.

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

113.1 Sec. 31. **CONSUMER DEBT COLLECTION LANGUAGE BARRIER WORKING**  
113.2 **GROUP.**113.3 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The commissioner of commerce shall convene a working  
113.4 group to review language barriers and the effect on creditors, debt collectors, and limited  
113.5 English proficient communities.113.6 Subd. 2. Membership. The working group consists of the following members:113.7 (1) the commissioner of commerce or a designee;  
113.8 (2) one member appointed by the Attorney General's Office;  
113.9 (3) two members of the public representing creditors or debt collectors, appointed by  
113.10 the industry and subject to approval by the commissioner of commerce;113.11 (4) two members of the public representing consumer rights, appointed by consumer  
113.12 rights advocate organizations and subject to approval by the commissioner of commerce;

113.13 (5) one member appointed by the Council for Minnesotans of African Heritage;

113.14 (6) one member appointed by the Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs;

113.15 (7) one member appointed by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans;

113.16 (8) two members appointed by the Indian Affairs Council; and

113.17 (9) one member appointed by Mid-Minnesota Legal Aid.

113.18 Subd. 3. Report. (a) By January 1, 2022, the commissioner of commerce shall report  
113.19 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate  
113.20 committees with jurisdiction over commerce with the working group's recommendations  
113.21 to address language barriers between creditors, debt collectors, and consumers.

113.22 (b) The working group shall examine:

113.23 (1) current practices for communicating with consumers in the consumer's preferred  
113.24 language when attempting to collect a debt or enforce a lien;113.25 (2) the availability of translation services or a written glossary of financial terms for  
113.26 consumers whose primary language is not English; and

113.27 (3) state and federal laws involving issues under clauses (1) and (2).

113.28 Sec. 32. **COLLECTION AGENCY EMPLOYEES; WORK FROM HOME.**113.29 An employee of a collection agency licensed under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 332,  
113.30 may work from a location other than the licensee's business location if the licensee and

114.1 employee comply with all the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, section 332.33, that  
114.2 would apply if the employee were working at the business location. The fee for a collector  
114.3 registration or renewal under Minnesota Statutes, section 332.33, subdivision 3, entitles the  
114.4 individual collector to work at a licensee's business location or a location otherwise acceptable  
114.5 under this section. An additional branch license is not required for a location used under  
114.6 this section. This section expires May 31, 2022.

114.7 **Sec. 33. REPEALER.**

114.8 Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 45.017; 45.306, subdivision 1; and 115C.13, are  
114.9 repealed.

114.10 **ARTICLE 7**

114.11 **ENERGY CONSERVATION AND STORAGE**

114.12 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 16B.86, is amended to read:

114.13 **16B.86 PRODUCTIVITY STATE BUILDING ENERGY CONSERVATION**

114.14 **IMPROVEMENT REVOLVING LOAN ACCOUNT.**

114.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section and section 16B.87, the  
114.16 following terms have the meanings given.

114.17 (b) "Energy conservation" has the meaning given in section 216B.241, subdivision 1,  
114.18 paragraph (d).

114.19 (c) "Energy conservation improvement" has the meaning given in section 216B.241,  
114.20 subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

114.21 (d) "Energy efficiency" has the meaning given in section 216B.241, subdivision 1,  
114.22 paragraph (f).

114.23 (e) "Project" means the energy conservation improvements financed by a loan made  
114.24 under this section.

114.25 (f) "State building" means an existing building owned by the state of Minnesota.

114.26 Subd. 2. **Account established.** The productivity state building energy conservation  
114.27 improvement revolving loan account is established as a special separate account in the state  
114.28 treasury. The commissioner shall manage the account and shall credit to the account  
114.29 investment income, repayments of principal and interest, and any other earnings arising  
114.30 from assets of the account. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of  
114.31 administration to make loans to finance agency projects that will result in either reduced

115.1 ~~operating costs or increased revenues, or both, for a state agency~~ state agencies to implement  
115.2 energy conservation and energy efficiency improvements in state buildings under section  
115.3 16B.87.

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

115.5 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 16B.87, is amended to read:

115.6 **16B.87 AWARD AND REPAYMENT OF PRODUCTIVITY STATE BUILDING**  
115.7 **ENERGY IMPROVEMENT CONSERVATION LOANS.**

115.8 **Subdivision 1. Committee.** The ~~Productivity~~ State Building Energy Conservation  
115.9 Improvement Loan Committee consists of the commissioners of administration, management  
115.10 and budget, and ~~revenue~~ commerce. The commissioner of administration serves as chair of  
115.11 the committee. The members serve without compensation or reimbursement for expenses.

115.12 **Subd. 2. Award and terms of loans.** (a) An agency shall apply for a loan on a form  
115.13 provided developed by the commissioner of administration; that requires an applicant to  
115.14 submit the following information:

115.15 (1) a description of the proposed project, including existing equipment, structural  
115.16 elements, operating characteristics, and other conditions affecting energy use that the energy  
115.17 conservation improvements financed by the loan modify or replace;

115.18 (2) the total estimated project cost and the loan amount sought;

115.19 (3) a detailed project budget;

115.20 (4) projections of the proposed project's expected energy and monetary savings;

115.21 (5) information demonstrating the agency's ability to repay the loan;

115.22 (6) a description of the energy conservation programs offered by the utility providing  
115.23 service to the state building from which the applicant seeks additional funding for the project;  
115.24 and

115.25 (7) any additional information requested by the commissioner.

115.26 (b) The committee shall review applications for loans and shall award a loan based upon  
115.27 criteria adopted by the committee. ~~The committee shall determine the amount, interest, and~~  
115.28 ~~other terms of the loan. The time for repayment of a loan may not exceed five years. A loan~~  
115.29 made under this section must:

115.30 (1) be at or below the market rate of interest, including a zero interest loan; and

115.31 (2) have a term no longer than seven years.

116.1 (c) In making awards, the committee shall give preference to:  
116.2 (1) applicants that have sought funding for the project through energy conservation  
116.3 projects offered by the utility serving the state building that is the subject of the application;  
116.4 and  
116.5 (2) to the extent feasible, applications for state buildings located within the electric retail  
116.6 service area of the utility that is subject to section 116C.779.

116.7 Subd. 3. **Repayment.** An agency receiving a loan under this section shall repay the loan  
116.8 according to the terms of the loan agreement. The principal and interest must be paid to the  
116.9 commissioner of administration, who shall deposit it in the ~~productivity state building energy~~  
116.10 ~~conservation improvement revolving loan fund~~ account. Payments of loan principal and  
116.11 interest must begin no later than one year after the project is completed.

116.12 Sec. 3. **[216B.1698] INNOVATIVE CLEAN TECHNOLOGIES.**

116.13 (a) For purposes of this section, "innovative clean technology" means advanced energy  
116.14 technology that is:

116.15 (1) environmentally superior to technologies currently in use;  
116.16 (2) expected to offer energy-related, environmental, or economic benefits; and  
116.17 (3) not widely deployed by the utility industry.

116.18 (b) A public utility may petition the commission for authorization to invest in a project  
116.19 or projects to deploy one or more innovative clean technologies to further the development,  
116.20 commercialization, and deployment of innovative clean technologies that benefit the public  
116.21 utility's customers.

116.22 (c) The commission may approve a petition under paragraph (b) if it finds:

116.23 (1) the technologies proposed are innovative clean technologies;  
116.24 (2) the investment in an innovative clean energy technology is likely to provide benefits  
116.25 to customers that exceed the technology's cost;

116.26 (3) the public utility is meeting its energy conservation goals under section 216B.241;  
116.27 and

116.28 (4) the project complies with the spending limits under paragraph (d).

116.29 (d) Over any three consecutive years, a public utility must not spend more on innovative  
116.30 clean technologies under this section than:

117.1        (1) for a public utility providing service to 200,000 or more retail Minnesota customers,  
117.2        \$6,000,000; or

117.3        (2) for a public utility providing service to fewer than 200,000 retail Minnesota customers,  
117.4        \$3,000,000.

117.5        (e) The commission may authorize a public utility to file a rate schedule containing  
117.6        provisions that automatically adjust charges for public utility service in direct relation to  
117.7        changes in prudent costs incurred by a public utility under this section, up to the amounts  
117.8        allowed under paragraph (d). To the extent the public utility investment under this section  
117.9        is for a capital asset, the utility may request that the asset be included in the utility's rate  
117.10        base.

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

117.12        Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2401, is amended to read:

117.13        **216B.2401 ENERGY SAVINGS AND OPTIMIZATION POLICY GOAL.**

117.14        (a) The legislature finds that energy savings are an energy resource, and that cost-effective  
117.15        energy savings are preferred over all other energy resources. In addition, the legislature  
117.16        finds that optimizing the timing and method used by energy consumers to manage energy  
117.17        use provides significant benefits to the consumers and to the utility system as a whole. The  
117.18        legislature further finds that cost-effective energy savings and load management programs  
117.19        should be procured systematically and aggressively in order to reduce utility costs for  
117.20        businesses and residents, improve the competitiveness and profitability of businesses, create  
117.21        more energy-related jobs, reduce the economic burden of fuel imports, and reduce pollution  
117.22        and emissions that cause climate change. Therefore, it is the energy policy of the state of  
117.23        Minnesota to achieve annual energy savings equal equivalent to at least 1.5 2.5 percent of  
117.24        annual retail energy sales of electricity and natural gas through cost-effective energy  
117.25        conservation improvement programs and rate design, energy efficiency achieved by energy  
117.26        consumers without direct utility involvement, energy codes and appliance standards, programs  
117.27        designed to transform the market or change consumer behavior, energy savings resulting  
117.28        from efficiency improvements to the utility infrastructure and system, and other efforts to  
117.29        promote energy efficiency and energy conservation. multiple measures, including but not  
117.30        limited to:

117.31        (1) cost-effective energy conservation improvement programs and efficient fuel-switching  
117.32        utility programs under sections 216B.2402 to 216B.241;  
117.33        (2) rate design;

118.1        (3) energy efficiency achieved by energy consumers without direct utility involvement;  
118.2        (4) advancements in statewide energy codes and cost-effective appliance and equipment  
118.3        standards;  
118.4        (5) programs designed to transform the market or change consumer behavior;  
118.5        (6) energy savings resulting from efficiency improvements to the utility infrastructure  
118.6        and system; and  
118.7        (7) other efforts to promote energy efficiency and energy conservation.

118.8        (b) A utility is encouraged to design and offer to customers load management programs  
118.9        that enable: (1) customers to maximize the economic value gained from the energy purchased  
118.10        from the customer's utility service provider; and (2) utilities to optimize the infrastructure  
118.11        and generation capacity needed to effectively serve customers and facilitate the integration  
118.12        of renewable energy into the energy system.

118.13        (c) The commissioner must provide a reasonable estimate of progress made toward the  
118.14        statewide energy-savings goal under paragraph (a) in the annual report required under section  
118.15        216B.241, subdivision 1c, and make recommendations for administrative or legislative  
118.16        initiatives to increase energy savings toward that goal. The commissioner must annually  
118.17        report on the energy productivity of the state's economy by estimating the ratio of economic  
118.18        output produced in the most recently completed calendar year to the primary energy inputs  
118.19        used in that year.

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

118.21        Sec. 5. **[216B.2402] DEFINITIONS.**

118.22        **Subdivision 1. Definitions.** For the purposes of section 216B.16, subdivision 6b, and  
118.23        sections 216B.2401 to 216B.241, the following terms have the meanings given them.

118.24        **Subd. 2. Consumer-owned utility.** "Consumer-owned utility" means a municipal gas  
118.25        utility, a municipal electric utility, or a cooperative electric association.

118.26        **Subd. 3. Cumulative lifetime savings.** "Cumulative lifetime savings" means the total  
118.27        electric energy or natural gas savings in a given year from energy conservation improvements  
118.28        installed in that given year and energy conservation improvements installed in previous  
118.29        years that are still in operation.

118.30        **Subd. 4. Efficient fuel-switching improvement.** "Efficient fuel-switching improvement"  
118.31        means a project that:

119.1 (1) replaces a fuel used by a customer with electricity or natural gas delivered at retail  
119.2 by a utility subject to section 216B.2403 or 216B.241;

119.3 (2) results in a net increase in the use of electricity or natural gas and a net decrease in  
119.4 source energy consumption on a fuel-neutral basis;

119.5 (3) otherwise meets the criteria established for consumer-owned utilities in section  
119.6 216B.2403, subdivision 8, and for public utilities under section 216B.241, subdivisions 11  
119.7 and 12; and

119.8 (4) requires the installation of equipment that utilizes electricity or natural gas, resulting  
119.9 in a reduction or elimination of the previous fuel used.

119.10 An efficient fuel-switching improvement is not an energy conservation improvement or  
119.11 energy efficiency even if it results in a net reduction in electricity or natural gas consumption.

119.12 Subd. 5. **Energy conservation.** "Energy conservation" means an action that results in  
119.13 a net reduction in electricity or natural gas consumption. Energy conservation does not  
119.14 include an efficient fuel-switching improvement.

119.15 Subd. 6. **Energy conservation improvement.** "Energy conservation improvement"  
119.16 means a project that results in energy efficiency or energy conservation. Energy conservation  
119.17 improvement may include waste heat that is recovered and converted into electricity or used  
119.18 as thermal energy, but does not include electric utility infrastructure projects approved by  
119.19 the commission under section 216B.1636.

119.20 Subd. 7. **Energy efficiency.** "Energy efficiency" means measures or programs, including  
119.21 energy conservation measures or programs, that: (1) target consumer behavior, equipment,  
119.22 processes, or devices; (2) are designed to reduce the consumption of electricity or natural  
119.23 gas on either an absolute or per unit of production basis; and (3) do not reduce the quality  
119.24 or level of service provided to an energy consumer.

119.25 Subd. 8. **Fuel.** "Fuel" means energy, including electricity, propane, natural gas, heating  
119.26 oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, or steam, consumed by a retail utility customer.

119.27 Subd. 9. **Fuel neutral.** "Fuel neutral" means an approach that compares the use of various  
119.28 fuels for a given end use, using a common metric.

119.29 Subd. 10. **Gross annual retail energy sales.** "Gross annual retail energy sales" means  
119.30 a utility's annual electric sales to all Minnesota retail customers, or natural gas throughput  
119.31 to all retail customers, including natural gas transportation customers, on a utility's  
119.32 distribution system in Minnesota. Gross annual retail energy sales does not include:

120.1        (1) gas sales to:

120.2        (i) a large energy facility;

120.3        (ii) a large customer facility whose natural gas utility has been exempted by the

120.4        commissioner under section 216B.241, subdivision 1a, paragraph (a), with respect to natural

120.5        gas sales made to the large customer facility; or

120.6        (iii) a commercial gas customer facility whose natural gas utility has been exempted by

120.7        the commissioner under section 216B.241, subdivision 1a, paragraph (b), with respect to

120.8        natural gas sales made to the commercial gas customer facility;

120.9        (2) electric sales to a large customer facility whose electric utility has been exempted

120.10        by the commissioner under section 216B.241, subdivision 1a, paragraph (a), with respect

120.11        to electric sales made to the large customer facility; or

120.12        (3) the amount of electric sales prior to December 31, 2032, that are associated with a

120.13        utility's program, rate, or tariff for electric vehicle charging based on a methodology and

120.14        assumptions developed by the department in consultation with interested stakeholders no

120.15        later than December 31, 2021. After December 31, 2032, incremental sales to electric

120.16        vehicles must be included in calculating a utility's gross annual retail sales.

120.17        Subd. 11. Investments and expenses of a public utility. "Investments and expenses of

120.18        a public utility" means the investments and expenses incurred by a public utility in connection

120.19        with an energy conservation improvement.

120.20        Subd. 12. Large customer facility. "Large customer facility" means all buildings,

120.21        structures, equipment, and installations at a single site that in aggregate: (1) impose a peak

120.22        electrical demand on an electric utility's system of at least 20,000 kilowatts, measured in

120.23        the same manner as the utility that serves the customer facility measures electric demand

120.24        for billing purposes; or (2) consume at least 500,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas annually.

120.25        When calculating peak electrical demand, a large customer facility may include demand

120.26        offset by on-site cogeneration facilities and, if engaged in mineral extraction, may include

120.27        peak energy demand from the large customer facility's mining processing operations.

120.28        Subd. 13. Large energy facility. "Large energy facility" has the meaning given in section

120.29        216B.2421, subdivision 2, clause (1).

120.30        Subd. 14. Lifetime energy savings. "Lifetime energy savings" means the amount of

120.31        savings a particular energy conservation improvement is projected to produce over the

120.32        improvement's effective useful lifetime.

121.1      **Subd. 15. Load management.** "Load management" means an activity, service, or  
121.2      technology that changes the timing or the efficiency of a customer's use of energy that allows  
121.3      a utility or a customer to: (1) respond to local and regional energy system conditions; or (2)  
121.4      reduce peak demand for electricity or natural gas. Load management that reduces a customer's  
121.5      net annual energy consumption is also energy conservation.

121.6      **Subd. 16. Low-income household.** "Low-income household" means a household whose  
121.7      household income is 60 percent or less of the state median household income.

121.8      **Subd. 17. Low-income programs.** "Low-income programs" means energy conservation  
121.9      improvement programs that directly serve the needs of low-income households, including  
121.10      low-income renters.

121.11      **Subd. 18. Member.** "Member" has the meaning given in section 308B.005, subdivision  
121.12      15.

121.13      **Subd. 19. Multifamily building.** "Multifamily building" means a residential building  
121.14      containing five or more dwelling units.

121.15      **Subd. 20. Preweatherization measure.** "Preweatherization measure" means an  
121.16      improvement that is necessary to allow energy conservation improvements to be installed  
121.17      in a home.

121.18      **Subd. 21. Qualifying utility.** "Qualifying utility" means a utility that supplies a customer  
121.19      with energy that enables the customer to qualify as a large customer facility.

121.20      **Subd. 22. Waste heat recovered and used as thermal energy.** "Waste heat recovered  
121.21      and used as thermal energy" means the capture of heat energy that would otherwise be  
121.22      exhausted or dissipated to the environment from machinery, buildings, or industrial processes,  
121.23      and productively using the recovered thermal energy where it was captured or distributing  
121.24      it as thermal energy to other locations where it is used to reduce demand-side consumption  
121.25      of natural gas, electric energy, or both.

121.26      **Subd. 23. Waste heat recovery converted into electricity.** "Waste heat recovery  
121.27      converted into electricity" means an energy recovery process that converts to electricity  
121.28      energy from the heat of exhaust stacks or pipes used for engines or manufacturing or  
121.29      industrial processes, or from the reduction of high pressure in water or gas pipelines, that  
121.30      would otherwise be lost.

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

122.1 Sec. 6. **[216B.2403] CONSUMER-OWNED UTILITIES; ENERGY CONSERVATION**  
122.2 **AND OPTIMIZATION.**

122.3 Subdivision 1. Applicability. This section applies to:  
122.4 (1) a cooperative electric association that provides retail service to more than 5,000  
122.5 members;  
122.6 (2) a municipality that provides electric service to more than 1,000 retail customers; and  
122.7 (3) a municipality with more than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet in annual throughput sales  
122.8 to natural gas retail customers.

122.9 Subd. 2. Consumer-owned utility; energy-savings goal. (a) Each individual  
122.10 consumer-owned utility subject to this section has an annual energy-savings goal equivalent  
122.11 to 1.5 percent of gross annual retail energy sales, which must be met with a minimum of  
122.12 energy savings from energy conservation improvements equivalent to at least one percent  
122.13 of the consumer-owned utility's gross annual retail energy sales. The balance of energy  
122.14 savings toward the annual energy-savings goal may be achieved only by the following  
122.15 consumer-owned utility activities:

122.16 (1) energy savings from additional energy conservation improvements;  
122.17 (2) electric utility infrastructure projects, as defined in section 216B.1636, subdivision  
122.18 1, that result in increased efficiency greater than would have occurred through normal  
122.19 maintenance activity;  
122.20 (3) net energy savings from efficient fuel-switching improvements that meet the criteria  
122.21 under subdivision 8; or  
122.22 (4) subject to department approval, demand-side natural gas or electric energy displaced  
122.23 by use of waste heat recovered and used as thermal energy, including the recovered thermal  
122.24 energy from a cogeneration or combined heat and power facility.

122.25 (b) The energy-savings goals specified in this section must be calculated based on  
122.26 weather-normalized sales averaged over the most recent three years. A consumer-owned  
122.27 utility may elect to carry forward energy savings in excess of 1.5 percent for a year to the  
122.28 next three years, except that energy savings from electric utility infrastructure projects may  
122.29 be carried forward for five years. A particular energy savings can only be used to meet one  
122.30 year's goal.

122.31 (c) A consumer-owned utility subject to this section is not required to make energy  
122.32 conservation improvements that are not cost-effective, even if the improvement is necessary

123.1 to attain the energy-savings goal. A consumer-owned utility subject to this section must  
123.2 make reasonable efforts to implement energy conservation improvements that exceed the  
123.3 minimum level established under this subdivision if cost-effective opportunities and funding  
123.4 are available, considering other potential investments the consumer-owned utility intends  
123.5 to make to benefit customers during the term of the plan filed under subdivision 3.

123.6 **Subd. 3. Consumer-owned utility; energy conservation and optimization plans. (a)**

123.7 By June 1, 2022, and at least every three years thereafter, each consumer-owned utility must  
123.8 file with the commissioner an energy conservation and optimization plan that describes the  
123.9 programs for energy conservation, efficient fuel-switching, load management, and other  
123.10 measures the consumer-owned utility intends to offer to achieve the utility's energy savings  
123.11 goal.

123.12 (b) A plan's term may extend up to three years. A multiyear plan must identify the total  
123.13 energy savings and energy savings resulting from energy conservation improvements that  
123.14 are projected to be achieved in each year of the plan. A multiyear plan that does not, in each  
123.15 year of the plan, meet both the minimum energy savings goal from energy conservation  
123.16 improvements and the total energy savings goal of 1.5 percent, or lower goals adjusted by  
123.17 the commissioner under paragraph (k), must:

123.18 (1) state why each goal is projected to be unmet; and

123.19 (2) demonstrate how the consumer-owned utility proposes to meet both goals on an  
123.20 average basis over the duration of the plan.

123.21 (c) A plan filed under this subdivision must provide:

123.22 (1) for existing programs, an analysis of the cost-effectiveness of the consumer-owned  
123.23 utility's programs offered under the plan, using a list of baseline energy- and capacity-savings  
123.24 assumptions developed in consultation with the department; and

123.25 (2) for new programs, a preliminary analysis upon which the program will proceed, in  
123.26 parallel with further development of assumptions and standards.

123.27 (d) The commissioner must evaluate a plan filed under this subdivision based on the  
123.28 plan's likelihood to achieve the energy-savings goals established in subdivision 2. The  
123.29 commissioner may make recommendations to a consumer-owned utility regarding ways to  
123.30 increase the effectiveness of the consumer-owned utility's energy conservation activities  
123.31 and programs under this subdivision. The commissioner may recommend that a  
123.32 consumer-owned utility implement a cost-effective energy conservation program, including

124.1 an energy conservation program suggested by an outside source, including but not limited  
124.2 to a political subdivision, nonprofit corporation, or community organization.

124.3 (e) Beginning June 1, 2023, and every June 1 thereafter, each consumer-owned utility  
124.4 must file: (1) an annual update identifying the status of the plan filed under this subdivision,  
124.5 including: (i) total expenditures and investments made to date under the plan; and (ii) any  
124.6 intended changes to the plan; and (2) a summary of the annual energy-savings achievements  
124.7 under a plan. An annual filing made in the last year of a plan must contain a new plan that  
124.8 complies with this section.

124.9 (f) When evaluating the cost-effectiveness of a consumer-owned utility's energy  
124.10 conservation programs, the consumer-owned utility and the commissioner must consider  
124.11 the costs and benefits to ratepayers, the utility, participants, and society. The commissioner  
124.12 must also consider the rate at which the consumer-owned utility is increasing energy savings  
124.13 and expenditures on energy conservation, and lifetime energy savings and cumulative energy  
124.14 savings.

124.15 (g) A consumer-owned utility may annually spend and invest up to ten percent of the  
124.16 total amount spent and invested on energy conservation improvements on research and  
124.17 development projects that meet the definition of energy conservation improvement.

124.18 (h) A generation and transmission cooperative electric association or municipal power  
124.19 agency that provides energy services to consumer-owned utilities may file a plan under this  
124.20 subdivision on behalf of the consumer-owned utilities to which the association or agency  
124.21 provides energy services and may make investments, offer conservation programs, and  
124.22 otherwise fulfill the energy-savings goals and reporting requirements under this subdivision  
124.23 for the consumer-owned utilities on an aggregate basis.

124.24 (i) A consumer-owned utility is prohibited from spending for or investing in energy  
124.25 conservation improvements that directly benefit a large energy facility or a large electric  
124.26 customer facility the commissioner has exempted under section 216B.241, subdivision 1a.

124.27 (j) The energy conservation and optimization plan of a consumer-owned utility may  
124.28 include activities to improve energy efficiency in the public schools served by the utility.  
124.29 These activities may include programs to:

124.30 (1) increase the efficiency of the school's lighting and heating and cooling systems;  
124.31 (2) recommission buildings;  
124.32 (3) train building operators; and

125.1        (4) provide opportunities to educate students, teachers, and staff regarding energy  
125.2        efficiency measures implemented at the school.

125.3        (k) A consumer-owned utility may request that the commissioner adjust the  
125.4        consumer-owned utility's minimum goal for energy savings from energy conservation  
125.5        improvements under subdivision 2, paragraph (a), for the duration of the plan filed under  
125.6        this subdivision. The request must be made by January 1 of the year the consumer-owned  
125.7        utility is required to file a plan under this subdivision. The request must be based on:

125.8        (1) historical energy conservation improvement program achievements;

125.9        (2) customer class makeup;

125.10        (3) projected load growth;

125.11        (4) an energy conservation potential study that estimates the amount of cost-effective  
125.12        energy conservation potential that exists in the consumer-owned utility's service territory;

125.13        (5) the cost-effectiveness and quality of the energy conservation programs offered by  
125.14        the consumer-owned utility; and

125.15        (6) other factors the commissioner and consumer-owned utility determine warrant an  
125.16        adjustment.

125.17        The commissioner must adjust the energy savings goal to a level the commissioner determines  
125.18        is supported by the record, but must not approve a minimum energy savings goal from  
125.19        energy conservation improvements that is less than an average of one percent per year over  
125.20        the consecutive years of the plan's duration, including the year the minimum energy savings  
125.21        goal is adjusted.

125.22        **Subd. 4. Consumer-owned utility; energy savings investment.** (a) Except as otherwise  
125.23        provided, a consumer-owned utility that the commissioner determines falls short of the  
125.24        minimum energy savings goal from energy conservation improvements established in  
125.25        subdivision 2, paragraph (a), for three consecutive years during which the utility has annually  
125.26        spent on energy conservation improvements less than 1.5 percent of gross operating revenues  
125.27        for an electric utility, or less than 0.5 percent of gross operating revenues for a natural gas  
125.28        utility, must spend no less than the following amounts for energy conservation improvements:

125.29        (1) for a municipality, 0.5 percent of gross operating revenues from the sale of gas and  
125.30        1.5 percent of gross operating revenues from the sale of electricity, excluding gross operating  
125.31        revenues from electric and gas service provided in Minnesota to large electric customer  
125.32        facilities; and

126.1        (2) for a cooperative electric association, 1.5 percent of gross operating revenues from  
126.2        service provided in Minnesota, excluding gross operating revenues from service provided  
126.3        in Minnesota to large electric customers facilities indirectly through a distribution cooperative  
126.4        electric association.

126.5        (b) The commissioner must not impose the spending requirement under this subdivision  
126.6        if the commissioner has determined that the utility has followed the commissioner's  
126.7        recommendations, if any, provided under subdivision 3, paragraph (d).

126.8        (c) Upon request of a consumer-owned utility, the commissioner may reduce the amount  
126.9        or duration of the spending requirement imposed under this subdivision, or both, if the  
126.10        commissioner determines that the consumer-owned utility's failure to maintain the minimum  
126.11        energy savings goal is the result of:

126.12        (1) a natural disaster or other emergency that is declared by the executive branch through  
126.13        an emergency executive order that affects the consumer-owned utility's service area;

126.14        (2) a unique load distribution experienced by the consumer-owned utility; or

126.15        (3) other factors that the commissioner determines justifies a reduction.

126.16        (d) Unless the commissioner reduces the duration of the spending requirement under  
126.17        paragraph (c), the spending requirement under this subdivision remains in effect until the  
126.18        consumer-owned utility has met the minimum energy savings goal for three consecutive  
126.19        years.

126.20        **Subd. 5. Energy conservation programs for low-income households.** (a) A  
126.21        consumer-owned utility subject to this section must provide energy conservation programs  
126.22        to low-income households. The commissioner must evaluate a consumer-owned utility's  
126.23        plans under this section by considering the consumer-owned utility's historic spending on  
126.24        energy conservation programs directed to low-income households, the rate of customer  
126.25        participation in and the energy savings resulting from those programs, and the number of  
126.26        low-income persons residing in the consumer-owned utility's service territory. A municipal  
126.27        utility that furnishes natural gas service must spend at least 0.2 percent of the municipal  
126.28        utility's most recent three-year average gross operating revenue from residential customers  
126.29        in Minnesota on energy conservation programs for low-income households. A  
126.30        consumer-owned utility that furnishes electric service must spend at least 0.2 percent of the  
126.31        consumer-owned utility's gross operating revenue from residential customers in Minnesota  
126.32        on energy conservation programs for low-income households. The requirement under this  
126.33        paragraph applies to each generation and transmission cooperative association's aggregate

127.1 gross operating revenue from the sale of electricity to residential customers in Minnesota  
127.2 by all of the association's member distribution cooperatives.

127.3 (b) To meet all or part of the spending requirements of paragraph (a), a consumer-owned  
127.4 utility may contribute money to the energy and conservation account established in section  
127.5 216B.241, subdivision 2a. An energy conservation optimization plan must state the amount  
127.6 of contributions the consumer-owned utility plans to make to the energy and conservation  
127.7 account. Contributions to the account must be used for energy conservation programs serving  
127.8 low-income households, including renters, located in the service area of the consumer-owned  
127.9 utility making the contribution. Contributions must be remitted to the commissioner by  
127.10 February 1 each year.

127.11 (c) The commissioner must establish energy conservation programs for low-income  
127.12 households funded through contributions made to the energy and conservation account  
127.13 under paragraph (b). When establishing energy conservation programs for low-income  
127.14 households, the commissioner must consult political subdivisions, utilities, and nonprofit  
127.15 and community organizations, including organizations providing energy and weatherization  
127.16 assistance to low-income households. The commissioner must record and report expenditures  
127.17 and energy savings achieved as a result of energy conservation programs for low-income  
127.18 households funded through the energy and conservation account in the report required under  
127.19 section 216B.241, subdivision 1c, paragraph (f). The commissioner may contract with a  
127.20 political subdivision, nonprofit or community organization, public utility, municipality, or  
127.21 consumer-owned utility to implement low-income programs funded through the energy and  
127.22 conservation account.

127.23 (d) A consumer-owned utility may petition the commissioner to modify the required  
127.24 spending under this subdivision if the consumer-owned utility and the commissioner were  
127.25 unable to expend the amount required for three consecutive years.

127.26 (e) The commissioner must develop and establish guidelines for determining the eligibility  
127.27 of multifamily buildings to participate in energy conservation programs provided to  
127.28 low-income households. Notwithstanding the definition of low-income household in section  
127.29 216B.2402, a consumer-owned utility or association may apply the most recent guidelines  
127.30 published by the department for purposes of determining the eligibility of multifamily  
127.31 buildings to participate in low-income programs. The commissioner must convene a  
127.32 stakeholder group to review and update these guidelines by July 1, 2022, and at least once  
127.33 every five years thereafter. The stakeholder group must include but is not limited to  
127.34 representatives of public utilities; municipal electric or gas utilities; electric cooperative  
127.35 associations; multifamily housing owners and developers; and low-income advocates.

128.1 (f) Up to 15 percent of a consumer-owned utility's spending on low-income energy  
128.2 conservation programs may be spent on preweatherization measures. A consumer-owned  
128.3 utility is prohibited from claiming energy savings from preweatherization measures toward  
128.4 the consumer-owned utility's energy savings goal.

128.5 (g) The commissioner must, by order, establish a list of preweatherization measures  
128.6 eligible for inclusion in low-income energy conservation programs no later than March 15,  
128.7 2022.

128.8 (h) A consumer-owned utility may elect to contribute money to the Healthy AIR account  
128.9 under section 216B.241, subdivision 7, paragraph (h), to provide preweatherization measures  
128.10 for households eligible for weatherization assistance from the state weatherization assistance  
128.11 program in section 216C.264. Remediation activities must be executed in conjunction with  
128.12 federal weatherization assistance program services.

128.13 Subd. 6. **Recovery of expenses.** The commission must allow a cooperative electric  
128.14 association subject to rate regulation under section 216B.026 to recover expenses resulting  
128.15 from: (1) a plan under this section; and (2) assessments and contributions to the energy and  
128.16 conservation account under section 216B.241, subdivision 2a.

128.17 Subd. 7. **Ownership of preweatherization measure or energy conservation  
improvement.** (a) A preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement  
128.18 installed in a building under this section, excluding a system owned by a consumer-owned  
128.19 utility that is designed to turn off, limit, or vary the delivery of energy, is the exclusive  
128.20 property of the building owner, except to the extent that the improvement is subject to a  
128.21 security interest in favor of the consumer-owned utility in case of a loan to the building  
128.22 owner for the improvement.

128.24 (b) A consumer-owned utility has no liability for loss, damage, or injury directly or  
128.25 indirectly caused by a preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement,  
128.26 unless a consumer-owned utility is determined to have been negligent in purchasing,  
128.27 installing, or modifying a preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement.

128.28 Subd. 8. **Criteria for efficient fuel-switching improvements.** (a) A fuel-switching  
128.29 improvement is deemed efficient if, applying the technical criteria established under section  
128.30 216B.241, subdivision 1d, paragraph (b), the improvement, relative to the fuel being  
128.31 displaced:

128.32 (1) results in a net reduction in the amount of source energy consumed for a particular  
128.33 use, measured on a fuel-neutral basis;

129.1       (2) results in a net reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions, as defined in section  
129.2       216H.01, subdivision 2, over the lifetime of the improvement. For an efficient fuel-switching  
129.3       improvement installed by an electric consumer-owned utility, the reduction in emissions  
129.4       must be measured based on the hourly emissions profile of the consumer-owned utility or  
129.5       the utility's electricity supplier, as reported in the most recent resource plan approved by  
129.6       the commission under section 216B.2422. If the hourly emissions profile is not available,  
129.7       the commissioner must develop a method consumer-owned utilities must use to estimate  
129.8       that value;

129.9       (3) is cost-effective, considering the costs and benefits from the perspective of the  
129.10      consumer-owned utility, participants, and society; and

129.11      (4) is installed and operated in a manner that improves the consumer-owned utility's  
129.12      system load factor.

129.13      (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "source energy" means the total amount of primary  
129.14      energy required to deliver energy services, adjusted for losses in generation, transmission,  
129.15      and distribution, and expressed on a fuel-neutral basis.

129.16      Subd. 9. **Manner of filing and service.** (a) A consumer-owned utility must submit the  
129.17      filings required under this section to the department using the department's electronic filing  
129.18      system. The commissioner may approve an exemption from this requirement if a  
129.19      consumer-owned utility is unable to submit filings via the department's electronic filing  
129.20      system. All other interested parties must submit filings to the department via the department's  
129.21      electronic filing system whenever practicable but may also file by personal delivery or by  
129.22      mail.

129.23      (b) The submission of a document to the department's electronic filing system constitutes  
129.24      service on the department. If a department rule requires service of a notice, order, or other  
129.25      document by the department, a consumer-owned utility, or an interested party upon persons  
129.26      on a service list maintained by the department, service may be made by personal delivery,  
129.27      mail, or electronic service. Electronic service may be made only to persons on the service  
129.28      list that have previously agreed in writing to accept electronic service at an e-mail address  
129.29      provided to the department for electronic service purposes.

129.30      Subd. 10. **Assessment.** The commission or department may assess consumer-owned  
129.31      utilities subject to this section to carry out the purposes of section 216B.241, subdivisions  
129.32      1d, 1e, and 1f. An assessment under this subdivision must be proportionate to a  
129.33      consumer-owned utility's gross operating revenue from sales of gas or electric service in  
129.34      Minnesota during the previous calendar year, as applicable. Assessments under this

130.1 subdivision are not subject to the cap on assessments under section 216B.62 or any other  
130.2 law.

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

130.4 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

130.5 Subd. 1a. **Investment, expenditure, and contribution; public utility Large customer**  
130.6 **facility.** ~~(a) For purposes of this subdivision and subdivision 2, "public utility" has the~~  
130.7 ~~meaning given it in section 216B.02, subdivision 4. Each public utility shall spend and~~  
130.8 ~~invest for energy conservation improvements under this subdivision and subdivision 2 the~~  
130.9 ~~following amounts:~~

130.10 (1) ~~for a utility that furnishes gas service, 0.5 percent of its gross operating revenues~~  
130.11 ~~from service provided in the state;~~

130.12 (2) ~~for a utility that furnishes electric service, 1.5 percent of its gross operating revenues~~  
130.13 ~~from service provided in the state; and~~

130.14 (3) ~~for a utility that furnishes electric service and that operates a nuclear-powered electric~~  
130.15 ~~generating plant within the state, two percent of its gross operating revenues from service~~  
130.16 ~~provided in the state.~~

130.17 ~~For purposes of this paragraph (a), "gross operating revenues" do not include revenues~~  
130.18 ~~from large customer facilities exempted under paragraph (b), or from commercial gas~~  
130.19 ~~customers that are exempted under paragraph (c) or (e).~~

130.20 (b) (a) The owner of a large customer facility may petition the commissioner to exempt  
130.21 both electric and gas utilities serving the large customer facility from the ~~investment and~~  
130.22 ~~expenditure requirements of paragraph (a) contributing to investments and expenditures~~  
130.23 ~~made under an energy and conservation optimization plan filed under subdivision 2 or~~  
130.24 ~~section 216B.2403, subdivision 3, with respect to retail revenues attributable to the large~~  
130.25 ~~customer facility. The filing must include a discussion of the competitive or economic~~  
130.26 ~~pressures facing the owner of the facility and the efforts taken by the owner to identify,~~  
130.27 ~~evaluate, and implement energy conservation and efficiency improvements. A filing~~  
130.28 ~~submitted on or before October 1 of any year must be approved within 90 days and become~~  
130.29 ~~effective January 1 of the year following the filing, unless the commissioner finds that the~~  
130.30 ~~owner of the large customer facility has failed to take reasonable measures to identify,~~  
130.31 ~~evaluate, and implement energy conservation and efficiency improvements. If a facility~~  
130.32 ~~qualifies as a large customer facility solely due to its peak electrical demand or annual~~  
130.33 ~~natural gas usage, the exemption may be limited to the qualifying utility if the commissioner~~

131.1 finds that the owner of the large customer facility has failed to take reasonable measures to  
131.2 identify, evaluate, and implement energy conservation and efficiency improvements with  
131.3 respect to the nonqualifying utility. Once an exemption is approved, the commissioner may  
131.4 request the owner of a large customer facility to submit, not more often than once every  
131.5 five years, a report demonstrating the large customer facility's ongoing commitment to  
131.6 energy conservation and efficiency improvement after the exemption filing. The  
131.7 commissioner may request such reports for up to ten years after the effective date of the  
131.8 exemption, unless the majority ownership of the large customer facility changes, in which  
131.9 case the commissioner may request additional reports for up to ten years after the change  
131.10 in ownership occurs. The commissioner may, within 180 days of receiving a report submitted  
131.11 under this paragraph, rescind any exemption granted under this paragraph upon a  
131.12 determination that the large customer facility is not continuing to make reasonable efforts  
131.13 to identify, evaluate, and implement energy conservation improvements. A large customer  
131.14 facility that is, under an order from the commissioner, exempt from the investment and  
131.15 expenditure requirements of paragraph (a) as of December 31, 2010, is not required to  
131.16 submit a report to retain its exempt status, except as otherwise provided in this paragraph  
131.17 with respect to ownership changes. No exempt large customer facility may participate in a  
131.18 utility conservation improvement program unless the owner of the facility submits a filing  
131.19 with the commissioner to withdraw its exemption.

131.20 (e) (b) A commercial gas customer that is not a large customer facility and that purchases  
131.21 or acquires natural gas from a public utility having fewer than 600,000 natural gas customers  
131.22 in Minnesota may petition the commissioner to exempt gas utilities serving the commercial  
131.23 gas customer from the investment and expenditure requirements of paragraph (a) contributing  
131.24 to investments and expenditures made under an energy and conservation optimization plan  
131.25 filed under subdivision 2 or section 216B.2403, subdivision 3, with respect to retail revenues  
131.26 attributable to the commercial gas customer. The petition must be supported by evidence  
131.27 demonstrating that the commercial gas customer has acquired or can reasonably acquire  
131.28 the capability to bypass use of the utility's gas distribution system by obtaining natural gas  
131.29 directly from a supplier not regulated by the commission. The commissioner shall grant the  
131.30 exemption if the commissioner finds that the petitioner has made the demonstration required  
131.31 by this paragraph.

131.32 ~~(d) The commissioner may require investments or spending greater than the amounts~~  
131.33 ~~required under this subdivision for a public utility whose most recent advance forecast~~  
131.34 ~~required under section 216B.2422 or 216C.17 projects a peak demand deficit of 100~~  
131.35 ~~megawatts or greater within five years under midrange forecast assumptions.~~

132.1      ~~(e) (c) A public utility, consumer-owned utility, or owner of a large customer facility~~  
132.2      may appeal a decision of the commissioner under paragraph ~~(a) or (b), (e), or (d)~~ to the  
132.3      commission under subdivision 2. In reviewing a decision of the commissioner under  
132.4      paragraph ~~(a) or (b), (e), or (d)~~, the commission shall rescind the decision if it finds ~~that the~~  
132.5      ~~required investments or spending will~~:

132.6      ~~(1) not result in cost effective energy conservation improvements; or~~  
132.7      ~~(2) otherwise the decision is not be in the public interest.~~

132.8      ~~(d) A public utility is prohibited from spending for or investing in energy conservation~~  
132.9      ~~improvements that directly benefit a large energy facility or a large electric customer facility~~  
132.10      ~~to which the commissioner has issued an exemption under this section.~~

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

132.12      Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 1c, is amended to read:

132.13      Subd. 1c. **Public utility; energy-saving goals.** (a) The commissioner shall establish  
132.14      energy-saving goals for energy conservation ~~improvement expenditures~~ ~~improvements~~ and  
132.15      shall evaluate an energy conservation improvement program on how well it meets the goals  
132.16      set.

132.17      (b) ~~Each individual A public utility and association shall have providing electric service~~  
132.18      ~~has~~ an annual energy-savings goal equivalent to ~~4.5~~ 1.75 percent of gross annual retail  
132.19      energy sales unless modified by the commissioner under paragraph ~~(d)~~ (c). A public utility  
132.20      ~~providing natural gas service has an annual energy-savings goal equivalent to one percent~~  
132.21      ~~of gross annual retail energy sales, which must not be lowered by the commissioner.~~ The  
132.22      savings goals must be calculated based on the most recent three-year weather-normalized  
132.23      average. A ~~public utility or association~~ ~~providing electric service~~ may elect to carry forward  
132.24      energy savings in excess of ~~4.5~~ 1.75 percent for a year to the succeeding three calendar  
132.25      years, except that savings from electric utility infrastructure projects allowed under paragraph  
132.26      ~~(d)~~ may be carried forward for five years. A ~~public utility providing natural gas service may~~  
132.27      ~~elect to carry forward energy savings in excess of one percent for a year to the succeeding~~  
132.28      ~~three calendar years.~~ A particular energy savings can only be used ~~only for~~ to meet one  
132.29      year's goal.

132.30      ~~(e) The commissioner must adopt a filing schedule that is designed to have all utilities~~  
132.31      ~~and associations operating under an energy savings plan by calendar year 2010.~~

132.32      ~~(d) (c) In its energy conservation improvement and optimization plan filing, a public~~  
132.33      utility ~~or association~~ may request the commissioner to adjust its annual energy-savings

133.1 percentage goal based on its historical conservation investment experience, customer class  
133.2 makeup, load growth, a conservation potential study, or other factors the commissioner  
133.3 determines warrants an adjustment.

133.4 (d) The commissioner may not approve a plan of a public utility that provides for an  
133.5 annual energy-savings goal of less than one percent of gross annual retail energy sales from  
133.6 energy conservation improvements.

133.7 ~~A utility or association may include in its energy conservation plan energy savings from~~  
133.8 ~~The balance of the 1.75 percent annual energy savings goal may be achieved through energy~~  
133.9 ~~savings from:~~

133.10 (1) additional energy conservation improvements;

133.11 (2) electric utility infrastructure projects approved by the commission under section  
133.12 216B.1636 that result in increased efficiency greater than would have occurred through  
133.13 normal maintenance activity; or waste heat recovery converted into electricity projects that  
133.14 may count as energy savings in addition to a minimum energy savings goal of at least one  
133.15 percent for energy conservation improvements. Energy savings from electric utility  
133.16 infrastructure projects, as defined in section 216B.1636, may be included in the energy  
133.17 conservation plan of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association. Electric utility  
133.18 infrastructure projects must result in increased energy efficiency greater than that which  
133.19 would have occurred through normal maintenance activity

133.20 (3) subject to department approval, demand-side natural gas or electric energy displaced  
133.21 by use of waste heat recovered and used as thermal energy, including the recovered thermal  
133.22 energy from a cogeneration or combined heat and power facility.

133.23 ~~(e) An energy savings goal is not satisfied by attaining the revenue expenditure~~  
133.24 ~~requirements of subdivisions 1a and 1b, but can only be satisfied by meeting the~~  
133.25 ~~energy savings goal established in this subdivision.~~

133.26 (f) An association or (e) A public utility is not required to make energy conservation  
133.27 investments to attain the energy-savings goals of this subdivision that are not cost-effective  
133.28 even if the investment is necessary to attain the energy-savings goals. For the purpose of  
133.29 this paragraph, in determining cost-effectiveness, the commissioner shall consider: (1) the  
133.30 costs and benefits to ratepayers, the utility, participants, and society. In addition, the  
133.31 commissioner shall consider; (2) the rate at which an association or municipal a public  
133.32 utility is increasing both its energy savings and its expenditures on energy conservation;  
133.33 and (3) the public utility's lifetime energy savings and cumulative energy savings.

134.1 (g) (f) On an annual basis, the commissioner shall produce and make publicly available  
134.2 a report on the annual energy and capacity savings and estimated carbon dioxide reductions  
134.3 achieved by the ~~energy conservation improvement programs~~ under this section and section  
134.4 216B.2403 for the two most recent years for which data is available. The report must also  
134.5 include information regarding any annual energy sales or generation capacity increases  
134.6 resulting from efficient fuel-switching improvements. The commissioner shall report on  
134.7 program performance both in the aggregate and for each entity filing an energy conservation  
134.8 improvement plan for approval or review by the commissioner, and must estimate progress  
134.9 made toward the statewide energy-savings goal under section 216B.2401.

134.10 (h) ~~By January 15, 2010, the commissioner shall report to the legislature whether the~~  
134.11 ~~spending requirements under subdivisions 1a and 1b are necessary to achieve the~~  
134.12 ~~energy-savings goals established in this subdivision.~~

134.13 (i) ~~This subdivision does not apply to:~~

134.14 (1) ~~a cooperative electric association with fewer than 5,000 members;~~  
134.15 (2) ~~a municipal utility with fewer than 1,000 retail electric customers; or~~  
134.16 (3) ~~a municipal utility with less than 1,000,000,000 cubic feet in annual throughput sales~~  
134.17 ~~to retail natural gas customers.~~

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

134.19 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 1d, is amended to read:

134.20 Subd. 1d. **Technical assistance.** (a) The commissioner shall evaluate energy conservation  
134.21 improvement programs filed under this section and section 216B.2403 on the basis of  
134.22 cost-effectiveness and the reliability of the technologies employed. The commissioner shall,  
134.23 by order, establish, maintain, and update energy-savings assumptions that must be used by  
134.24 utilities when filing energy conservation improvement programs. The department must track  
134.25 a public utility's or consumer-owned utility's lifetime energy savings and cumulative lifetime  
134.26 energy savings reported in plans submitted under this section and section 216B.2403.

134.27 (b) The commissioner shall establish an inventory of the most effective energy  
134.28 conservation programs, techniques, and technologies, and encourage all Minnesota utilities  
134.29 to implement them, where appropriate, ~~in their service territories~~. The commissioner shall  
134.30 describe these programs in sufficient detail to provide a utility reasonable guidance  
134.31 concerning implementation. The commissioner shall prioritize the opportunities in order of  
134.32 potential energy savings and in order of cost-effectiveness.

135.1        (c) The commissioner may contract with a third party to carry out any of the  
135.2        commissioner's duties under this subdivision, and to obtain technical assistance to evaluate  
135.3        the effectiveness of any conservation improvement program.

135.4        (d) The commissioner may assess up to \$850,000 annually for the purposes of this  
135.5        subdivision. The assessments must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the  
135.6        energy and conservation account created under subdivision 2a. An assessment made under  
135.7        this subdivision is not subject to the cap on assessments provided by section 216B.62, or  
135.8        any other law.

135.9        ~~(b) Of the assessment authorized under paragraph (a), the commissioner may expend~~  
135.10      ~~up to \$400,000 annually for the purpose of developing, operating, maintaining, and providing~~  
135.11      ~~technical support for a uniform electronic data reporting and tracking system available to~~  
135.12      ~~all utilities subject to this section, in order to enable accurate measurement of the cost and~~  
135.13      ~~energy savings of the energy conservation improvements required by this section. This~~  
135.14      ~~paragraph expires June 30, 2018.~~

135.15        (e) The commissioner must work with stakeholders to develop technical guidelines that  
135.16      public utilities and consumer-owned utilities must use to:

135.17        (1) determine whether deployment of a fuel-switching improvement meets the criteria  
135.18      established in subdivision 11, paragraph (e), or section 216B.2403, subdivision 8, as  
135.19      applicable; and

135.20        (2) calculate the amount of energy saved by deploying a fuel-switching improvement.

135.21        The guidelines under this paragraph must be issued by the commissioner by order no later  
135.22      than March 15, 2022, and must be updated as the commissioner determines is necessary.

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

135.24        Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 1f, is amended to read:

135.25        **Subd. 1f. Facilities energy efficiency.** (a) The commissioner of administration and the  
135.26        commissioner of commerce shall maintain and, as needed, revise the sustainable building  
135.27        design guidelines developed under section 16B.325.

135.28        (b) The commissioner of administration and the commissioner of commerce shall maintain  
135.29        and update the benchmarking tool developed under Laws 2001, chapter 212, article 1, section  
135.30        3, so that all public buildings can use the benchmarking tool to maintain energy use  
135.31        information for the purposes of establishing energy efficiency benchmarks, tracking building  
135.32        performance, and measuring the results of energy efficiency and conservation improvements.

136.1       (c) The commissioner shall require that utilities include in their conservation improvement  
136.2 plans programs that facilitate professional engineering verification to qualify a building as  
136.3 Energy Star-labeled, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certified, or  
136.4 Green Globes-certified. ~~The state goal is to achieve certification of 1,000 commercial~~  
136.5 ~~buildings as Energy Star-labeled, and 100 commercial buildings as LEED certified or Green~~  
136.6 ~~Globes certified by December 31, 2010.~~

136.7       (d) The commissioner may assess up to \$500,000 annually for the purposes of this  
136.8 subdivision. The assessments must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the  
136.9 energy and conservation account created under subdivision 2a. An assessment made under  
136.10 this subdivision is not subject to the cap on assessments provided by section 216B.62, or  
136.11 any other law.

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

136.13       Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 1g, is amended to read:

136.14       Subd. 1g. **Manner of filing and service.** (a) A public utility, ~~generation and transmission~~  
136.15 ~~cooperative electric association, municipal power agency, cooperative electric association,~~  
136.16 ~~and municipal utility~~ shall submit filings to the department via the department's electronic  
136.17 filing system. The commissioner may approve an exemption from this requirement in the  
136.18 event ~~an affected a public utility or association~~ is unable to submit filings via the department's  
136.19 electronic filing system. All other interested parties shall submit filings to the department  
136.20 via the department's electronic filing system whenever practicable but may also file by  
136.21 personal delivery or by mail.

136.22       (b) Submission of a document to the department's electronic filing system constitutes  
136.23 service on the department. Where department rule requires service of a notice, order, or  
136.24 other document by the department, public utility, association, or interested party upon  
136.25 persons on a service list maintained by the department, service may be made by personal  
136.26 delivery, mail, or electronic service, except that electronic service may only be made upon  
136.27 persons on the service list who have previously agreed in writing to accept electronic service  
136.28 at an electronic address provided to the department for electronic service purposes.

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

136.30       Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

136.31       Subd. 2. **Programs Public utility; energy conservation and optimization plans.** (a)  
136.32       The commissioner may require a public utilities utility to make investments and expenditures

137.1 in energy conservation improvements, explicitly setting forth the interest rates, prices, and  
137.2 terms under which the improvements must be offered to the customers. ~~The required~~  
137.3 programs must cover no more than a three year period.

137.4 (b) A public ~~utilities~~ utility shall file ~~an energy conservation improvement plans and~~  
137.5 ~~optimization plan~~ by June 1, on a schedule determined by order of the commissioner, but  
137.6 at least every three years. ~~Plans received As provided in subdivisions 11 to 13, plans may~~  
137.7 ~~include programs for efficient fuel-switching improvements and load management. An~~  
137.8 ~~individual utility program may combine elements of energy conservation, load management,~~  
137.9 ~~or efficient fuel-switching. The plan must estimate the lifetime energy savings and cumulative~~  
137.10 ~~lifetime energy savings projected to be achieved under the plan. A plan filed by a public~~  
137.11 ~~utility by June 1 must be approved or approved as modified by the commissioner by~~  
137.12 December 1 of that same year.

137.13 (c) The commissioner shall evaluate the ~~program plan~~ on the basis of cost-effectiveness  
137.14 and the reliability of technologies employed. The commissioner's order must provide to the  
137.15 extent practicable for a free choice, by consumers participating in ~~the~~ ~~an energy conservation~~  
137.16 program; of the device, method, material, or project constituting the energy conservation  
137.17 improvement and for a free choice of the seller, installer, or contractor of the energy  
137.18 conservation improvement, provided that the device, method, material, or project seller,  
137.19 installer, or contractor is duly licensed, certified, approved, or qualified, including under  
137.20 the residential conservation services program, where applicable.

137.21 (b) (d) The commissioner may require a utility subject to subdivision 1c to make an  
137.22 energy conservation improvement investment or expenditure whenever the commissioner  
137.23 finds that the improvement will result in energy savings at a total cost to the utility less than  
137.24 the cost to the utility to produce or purchase an equivalent amount of new supply of energy.  
137.25 ~~The commissioner shall nevertheless ensure that every public utility operate one or more~~  
137.26 ~~programs under periodic review by the department.~~

137.27 (e) (e) Each public utility subject to ~~this~~ subdivision 1a may spend and invest annually  
137.28 up to ten percent of the total amount ~~required to be~~ spent and invested on energy conservation  
137.29 improvements under this section by the public utility on research and development projects  
137.30 that meet the definition of energy conservation improvement ~~in subdivision 1 and that are~~  
137.31 ~~funded directly by the public utility.~~

137.32 (d) ~~A public utility may not spend for or invest in energy conservation improvements~~  
137.33 ~~that directly benefit a large energy facility or a large electric customer facility for which the~~  
137.34 ~~commissioner has issued an exemption pursuant to subdivision 1a, paragraph (b).~~

138.1 (f) The commissioner shall consider and may require a public utility to undertake ~~a~~ an  
138.2 energy conservation program suggested by an outside source, including a political  
138.3 subdivision, a nonprofit corporation, or community organization.

138.4 (e) (g) A public utility, a political subdivision, or a nonprofit or community organization  
138.5 that has suggested ~~a~~ an energy conservation program, the attorney general acting on behalf  
138.6 of consumers and small business interests, or a public utility customer that has suggested ~~a~~  
138.7 an energy conservation program and is not represented by the attorney general under section  
138.8 8.33 may petition the commission to modify or revoke a department decision under this  
138.9 section, and the commission may do so if it determines that the energy conservation program  
138.10 is not cost-effective, does not adequately address the residential conservation improvement  
138.11 needs of low-income persons, has a long-range negative effect on one or more classes of  
138.12 customers, or is otherwise not in the public interest. The commission shall reject a petition  
138.13 that, on its face, fails to make a reasonable argument that ~~a~~ an energy conservation program  
138.14 is not in the public interest.

138.15 (f) (h) The commissioner may order a public utility to include, with the filing of the  
138.16 public utility's annual status report, the results of an independent audit of the public utility's  
138.17 conservation improvement programs and expenditures performed by the department or an  
138.18 auditor with experience in the provision of energy conservation and energy efficiency  
138.19 services approved by the commissioner and chosen by the public utility. The audit must  
138.20 specify the energy savings or increased efficiency in the use of energy within the service  
138.21 territory of the public utility that is the result of the public utility's spending and investments.  
138.22 The audit must evaluate the cost-effectiveness of the public utility's conservation programs.

138.23 (g) ~~A gas utility may not spend for or invest in energy conservation improvements that~~  
138.24 ~~directly benefit a large customer facility or commercial gas customer facility for which the~~  
138.25 ~~commissioner has issued an exemption pursuant to subdivision 1a, paragraph (b), (c), or~~  
138.26 ~~(e). The commissioner shall consider and may require a utility to undertake a program~~  
138.27 ~~suggested by an outside source, including a political subdivision, a nonprofit corporation,~~  
138.28 ~~or a community organization.~~

138.29 (i) The energy conservation and optimization plan of each public utility subject to this  
138.30 section must include activities to improve energy efficiency in public schools served by the  
138.31 utility. As applicable to each public utility, at a minimum the activities must include programs  
138.32 to increase the efficiency of the school's lighting and heating and cooling systems, and to  
138.33 provide for building recommissioning, building operator training, and opportunities to  
138.34 educate students, teachers, and staff regarding energy efficiency measures implemented at  
138.35 the school.

139.1       (j) The commissioner may require investments or spending greater than the amounts  
139.2       proposed in a plan filed under this subdivision or section 216C.17 for a public utility whose  
139.3       most recent advanced forecast required under section 216B.2422 projects a peak demand  
139.4       deficit of 100 megawatts or more within five years under midrange forecast assumptions.

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

139.6       Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 2b, is amended to read:

139.7       Subd. 2b. **Recovery of expenses.** (a) The commission shall allow a public utility to  
139.8       recover expenses resulting from ~~a an energy conservation improvement program required~~  
139.9       and optimization plan approved by the department under this section and contributions and  
139.10       assessments to the energy and conservation account, unless the recovery would be  
139.11       inconsistent with a financial incentive proposal approved by the commission. ~~The commission~~  
139.12       ~~shall allow a cooperative electric association subject to rate regulation under section~~  
139.13       ~~216B.026, to recover expenses resulting from energy conservation improvement programs,~~  
139.14       ~~load management programs, and assessments and contributions to the energy and~~  
139.15       ~~conservation account unless the recovery would be inconsistent with a financial incentive~~  
139.16       ~~proposal approved by the commission. In addition,~~

139.17       (b) A public utility may file annually, or the Public Utilities Commission may require  
139.18       the public utility to file, and the commission may approve, rate schedules containing  
139.19       provisions for the automatic adjustment of charges for utility service in direct relation to  
139.20       changes in the expenses of the public utility for real and personal property taxes, fees, and  
139.21       permits, the amounts of which the public utility cannot control. A public utility is eligible  
139.22       to file for adjustment for real and personal property taxes, fees, and permits under this  
139.23       subdivision only if, in the year previous to the year in which it files for adjustment, it has  
139.24       spent or invested at least 1.75 percent of its gross revenues from provision of electric service,  
139.25       excluding gross operating revenues from electric service provided in the state to large electric  
139.26       customer facilities for which the commissioner has issued an exemption under subdivision  
139.27       1a, paragraph (b), and 0.6 percent of its gross revenues from provision of gas service,  
139.28       excluding gross operating revenues from gas services provided in the state to large electric  
139.29       customer facilities for which the commissioner has issued an exemption under subdivision  
139.30       1a, paragraph (b), for that year for energy conservation improvements under this section.

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

140.1 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

140.2 **Subd. 3. Ownership of preweatherization measure or energy conservation**

140.3 **improvement.** ~~An~~ (a) A preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement  
140.4 made to or installed in a building in accordance with this section, except systems owned by  
140.5 ~~the a public~~ utility and designed to turn off, limit, or vary the delivery of energy, are the  
140.6 exclusive property of the owner of the building except to the extent that the improvement  
140.7 is subjected to a security interest in favor of the public utility in case of a loan to the building  
140.8 owner. ~~The~~

140.9 (b) A public utility has no liability for loss, damage, or injury caused directly or indirectly  
140.10 by an ~~a preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement except for negligence~~  
140.11 by the utility in purchase, installation, or modification of the product. ~~purchasing, installing,~~  
140.12 or modifying a preweatherization measure or energy conservation improvement.

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

140.14 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

140.15 **Subd. 5. Efficient lighting program.** ~~(a) Each public utility, cooperative electric~~  
140.16 ~~association, and municipal and consumer-owned~~ utility that provides electric service to  
140.17 retail customers and is subject to subdivision 1c or section 216B.2403 shall include as part  
140.18 of its conservation improvement activities a program to strongly encourage the use of LED  
140.19 lamps. The program must include at least a public information campaign to encourage use  
140.20 of LED lamps and proper management of spent lamps by all customer classifications.

140.21 (b) A public utility that provides electric service at retail to 200,000 or more customers  
140.22 shall establish, either directly or through contracts with other persons, including lamp  
140.23 manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, and retailers and local government units, a system  
140.24 to collect for delivery to a reclamation or recycling facility spent fluorescent and  
140.25 high-intensity discharge lamps from households and from small businesses as defined in  
140.26 section 645.445 that generate an average of fewer than ten spent lamps per year.

140.27 (c) A collection system must include establishing reasonably convenient locations for  
140.28 collecting spent lamps from households and financial incentives sufficient to encourage  
140.29 spent lamp generators to take the lamps to the collection locations. Financial incentives may  
140.30 include coupons for purchase of new LED lamps, a cash back system, or any other financial  
140.31 incentive or group of incentives designed to collect the maximum number of spent lamps  
140.32 from households and small businesses that is reasonably feasible.

141.1 (d) A public utility that provides electric service at retail to fewer than 200,000 customers,  
141.2 ~~a cooperative electric association, or a municipal or a consumer-owned utility~~ that provides  
141.3 electric service at retail to customers may establish a collection system under paragraphs  
141.4 (b) and (c) as part of conservation improvement activities required under this section.

141.5 (e) The commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency may not, unless clearly required  
141.6 by federal law, require a public utility, ~~cooperative electric association, or municipality or~~  
141.7 ~~consumer-owned utility~~ that establishes a household fluorescent and high-intensity discharge  
141.8 lamp collection system under this section to manage the lamps as hazardous waste as long  
141.9 as the lamps are managed to avoid breakage and are delivered to a recycling or reclamation  
141.10 facility that removes mercury and other toxic materials contained in the lamps prior to  
141.11 placement of the lamps in solid waste.

141.12 (f) If a public utility, ~~cooperative electric association, or municipal or consumer-owned~~  
141.13 utility contracts with a local government unit to provide a collection system under this  
141.14 subdivision, the contract must provide for payment to the local government unit of all the  
141.15 unit's incremental costs of collecting and managing spent lamps.

141.16 (g) All the costs incurred by a public utility, ~~cooperative electric association, or municipal~~  
141.17 ~~or consumer-owned utility~~ to promote the use of LED lamps and to ~~collect fluorescent and~~  
141.18 ~~high-intensity discharge~~ ~~collect~~ LED lamps under this subdivision are conservation  
141.19 improvement spending under this section.

141.20 (h) For the purposes of this subdivision, "LED lamp" means a light-emitting diode lamp  
141.21 ~~that consists of a solid state device that emits visible light when an electric current passes~~  
141.22 ~~through a semiconductor bulb or lighting product~~.

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

141.24 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

141.25 **Subd. 7. Low-income programs.** (a) The commissioner shall ensure that each public  
141.26 ~~utility and association~~ subject to subdivision 1c provides ~~low-income energy conservation~~  
141.27 ~~programs to low-income households~~. When approving spending and energy-savings goals  
141.28 for low-income programs, the commissioner shall consider historic spending and participation  
141.29 levels, energy savings ~~for achieved by~~ low-income programs, and the number of low-income  
141.30 persons residing in the utility's service territory. A ~~municipal utility that furnishes gas service~~  
141.31 ~~must spend at least 0.2 percent, and a~~ public utility furnishing gas service must spend at  
141.32 least ~~0.4~~ 0.8 percent of its most recent three-year average gross operating revenue from  
141.33 residential customers in the state on low-income programs. A ~~public utility or association~~

142.1 that furnishes electric service must spend at least ~~0.4~~ 0.4 percent of its gross operating  
142.2 revenue from residential customers in the state on low-income programs. ~~For a generation~~  
142.3 ~~and transmission cooperative association, this requirement shall apply to each association's~~  
142.4 ~~members' aggregate gross operating revenue from sale of electricity to residential customers~~  
142.5 ~~in the state. Beginning in 2010, a utility or association that furnishes electric service must~~  
142.6 ~~spend 0.2 percent of its gross operating revenue from residential customers in the state on~~  
142.7 ~~low-income programs.~~

142.8 (b) To meet the requirements of paragraph (a), a public utility or association may  
142.9 contribute money to the energy and conservation account established under subdivision 2a.  
142.10 An energy conservation improvement plan must state the amount, if any, of low-income  
142.11 energy conservation improvement funds the public utility or association will contribute to  
142.12 the energy and conservation account. Contributions must be remitted to the commissioner  
142.13 by February 1 of each year.

142.14 (c) The commissioner shall establish low-income energy conservation programs to utilize  
142.15 ~~money contributed contributions made~~ to the energy and conservation account under  
142.16 paragraph (b). In establishing low-income programs, the commissioner shall consult political  
142.17 subdivisions, utilities, and nonprofit and community organizations, especially organizations  
142.18 ~~engaged in~~ providing energy and weatherization assistance to low-income ~~persons~~  
142.19 households. ~~Money contributed Contributions made~~ to the energy and conservation account  
142.20 under paragraph (b) must provide programs for low-income ~~persons~~ households, including  
142.21 low-income renters, in the service territory of the public utility or association providing the  
142.22 money. The commissioner shall record and report expenditures and energy savings achieved  
142.23 as a result of low-income programs funded through the energy and conservation account in  
142.24 the report required under subdivision 1c, paragraph (g)(f). The commissioner may contract  
142.25 with a political subdivision, nonprofit or community organization, public utility, ~~municipality~~,  
142.26 or ~~cooperative electric association~~ consumer-owned utility to implement low-income  
142.27 programs funded through the energy and conservation account.

142.28 (d) A public utility or association may petition the commissioner to modify its required  
142.29 spending under paragraph (a) if the utility ~~or association~~ and the commissioner have been  
142.30 unable to expend the amount required under paragraph (a) for three consecutive years.

142.31 (e) The commissioner must develop and establish guidelines to determine the eligibility  
142.32 of multifamily buildings to participate in low-income energy conservation programs.  
142.33 Notwithstanding the definition of low-income household in section 216B.2402, for purposes  
142.34 of determining the eligibility of multifamily buildings for low-income programs a public  
142.35 utility may apply the most recent guidelines published by the department. The commissioner

143.1 must convene a stakeholder group to review and update guidelines by July 1, 2022, and at  
143.2 least once every five years thereafter. The stakeholder group must include but is not limited  
143.3 to representatives of public utilities as defined in section 216B.02, subdivision 4; municipal  
143.4 electric or gas utilities; electric cooperative associations; multifamily housing owners and  
143.5 developers; and low-income advocates.

143.6 (f) Up to 15 percent of a public utility's spending on low-income programs may be spent  
143.7 on preweatherization measures. A public utility is prohibited from claiming energy savings  
143.8 from preweatherization measures toward the public utility's energy savings goal.

143.9 (g) The commissioner must, by order, establish a list of preweatherization measures  
143.10 eligible for inclusion in low-income programs no later than March 15, 2022.

143.11 (h) A Healthy AIR (Asbestos Insulation Removal) account is established as a separate  
143.12 account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury. A public utility may elect to  
143.13 contribute money to the Healthy AIR account to provide preweatherization measures to  
143.14 households eligible for weatherization assistance under section 216C.264. Remediation  
143.15 activities must be executed in conjunction with federal weatherization assistance program  
143.16 services. Money contributed to the account counts toward: (1) the minimum low-income  
143.17 spending requirement in paragraph (a); and (2) the cap on preweatherization measures under  
143.18 paragraph (f). Money in the account is annually appropriated to the commissioner of  
143.19 commerce to pay for Healthy AIR-related activities.

143.20 (e) (i) The costs and benefits associated with any approved low-income gas or electric  
143.21 conservation improvement program that is not cost-effective when considering the costs  
143.22 and benefits to the public utility may, at the discretion of the utility, be excluded from the  
143.23 calculation of net economic benefits for purposes of calculating the financial incentive to  
143.24 the public utility. The energy and demand savings may, at the discretion of the public utility,  
143.25 be applied toward the calculation of overall portfolio energy and demand savings for purposes  
143.26 of determining progress toward annual goals and in the financial incentive mechanism.

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

143.28 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

143.29 Subd. 8. **Assessment.** The commission or department may assess public utilities subject  
143.30 to this section in proportion to their respective to carry out the purposes of subdivisions 1d,  
143.31 1e, and 1f. An assessment under this subdivision must be proportionate to a public utility's  
143.32 gross operating revenue from sales of gas or electric service within the state Minnesota  
143.33 during the last calendar year to carry out the purposes of subdivisions 1d, 1e, and 1f. Those

144.1 assessments, as applicable. Assessments made under this subdivision are not subject to the  
144.2 cap on assessments provided by section 216B.62, or any other law.

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

144.4 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision  
144.5 to read:

144.6 **Subd. 11. Programs for efficient fuel-switching improvements; electric utilities. (a)**  
144.7 A public utility providing electric service at retail may include in the plan required under  
144.8 subdivision 2 programs to implement efficient fuel-switching improvements or combinations  
144.9 of energy conservation improvements, fuel-switching improvements, and load management.  
144.10 For each program, the public utility must provide a proposed budget, an analysis of the  
144.11 program's cost-effectiveness, and estimated net energy and demand savings.

144.12 (b) The department may approve proposed programs for efficient fuel-switching  
144.13 improvements if the department determines the improvements meet the requirements of  
144.14 paragraph (d). For fuel-switching improvements that require the deployment of electric  
144.15 technologies, the department must also consider whether the fuel-switching improvement  
144.16 can be operated in a manner that facilitates the integration of variable renewable energy  
144.17 into the electric system. The net benefits from an efficient fuel-switching improvement that  
144.18 is integrated with an energy efficiency program approved under this section may be counted  
144.19 toward the net benefits of the energy efficiency program if the department determines the  
144.20 primary purpose and effect of the program is energy efficiency.

144.21 (c) A public utility may file a rate schedule with the commission that provides for annual  
144.22 cost recovery of reasonable and prudent costs incurred to implement and promote efficient  
144.23 fuel-switching programs. The commission may not approve a financial incentive to encourage  
144.24 efficient fuel-switching programs operated by a public utility providing electric service.

144.25 (d) A fuel-switching improvement is deemed efficient if, applying the technical criteria  
144.26 established under section 216B.241, subdivision 1d, paragraph (b), the improvement meets  
144.27 the following criteria, relative to the fuel that is being displaced:

144.28 (1) results in a net reduction in the amount of source energy consumed for a particular  
144.29 use, measured on a fuel-neutral basis;

144.30 (2) results in a net reduction of statewide greenhouse gas emissions as defined in section  
144.31 216H.01, subdivision 2, over the lifetime of the improvement. For an efficient fuel-switching  
144.32 improvement installed by an electric utility, the reduction in emissions must be measured

145.1 based on the hourly emission profile of the electric utility, using the hourly emissions profile  
145.2 in the most recent resource plan approved by the commission under section 216B.2422;

145.3 (3) is cost-effective, considering the costs and benefits from the perspective of the utility,  
145.4 participants, and society; and

145.5 (4) is installed and operated in a manner that improves the utility's system load factor.

145.6 (e) For purposes of this subdivision, "source energy" means the total amount of primary  
145.7 energy required to deliver energy services, adjusted for losses in generation, transmission,  
145.8 and distribution, and expressed on a fuel-neutral basis.

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

145.10 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision  
145.11 to read:

145.12 **Subd. 12. Programs for efficient fuel-switching improvements; natural gas**  
145.13 **utilities.** (a) As part of a public utility's plan filed under subdivision 2, a public utility that  
145.14 provides natural gas service to Minnesota retail customers may propose as an energy  
145.15 conservation improvement one or more programs to install electric technologies that reduce  
145.16 the consumption of natural gas by the utility's retail customers. The commissioner may  
145.17 approve a proposed program if the commissioner, applying the technical criteria developed  
145.18 under section 216B.241, subdivision 1d, paragraph (b), determines:

145.19 (1) the electric technology to be installed meets the criteria established under section  
145.20 216B.241, subdivision 11, paragraph (d), clauses (1) and (2); and

145.21 (2) the program is cost-effective, considering the costs and benefits to ratepayers, the  
145.22 utility, participants, and society.

145.23 (b) If a program is approved by the commission under this subdivision, the public utility  
145.24 may count the program's energy savings toward the public utility's energy savings goal  
145.25 under section 216B.241, subdivision 1c. Notwithstanding section 216B.2402, subdivision  
145.26 4, efficient fuel-switching achieved through programs approved under this subdivision is  
145.27 energy conservation.

145.28 (c) A public utility may file rate schedules with the commission that provide annual  
145.29 cost-recovery for programs approved by the department under this subdivision, including  
145.30 reasonable and prudent costs incurred to implement and promote the programs.

145.31 (d) The commission may approve, modify, or reject a proposal made by the department  
145.32 or a utility for an incentive plan to encourage efficient fuel-switching programs approved

146.1 under this subdivision, applying the considerations established under section 216B.16,  
146.2 subdivision 6c, paragraphs (b) and (c). The commission may approve a financial incentive  
146.3 mechanism that is calculated based on the combined energy savings and net benefits that  
146.4 the commission determines have been achieved by a program approved under this  
146.5 subdivision, provided the commission determines that the financial incentive mechanism  
146.6 is in the ratepayers' interest.

146.7 (e) A public utility is not eligible for a financial incentive for an efficient fuel-switching  
146.8 program under this subdivision in any year in which the utility achieves energy savings  
146.9 below one percent of gross annual retail energy sales, excluding savings achieved through  
146.10 fuel-switching programs.

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

146.12 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision  
146.13 to read:

146.14 **Subd. 13. Cost-effective load management programs.** (a) A public utility may include  
146.15 in the utility's plan required under subdivision 2 programs to implement load management  
146.16 activities, or combinations of energy conservation improvements, fuel-switching  
146.17 improvements, and load management activities. For each program the public utility must  
146.18 provide a proposed budget, cost-effectiveness analysis, and estimated net energy and demand  
146.19 savings.

146.20 (b) The commissioner may approve a proposed program if the commissioner determines  
146.21 the program is cost-effective, considering the costs and benefits to ratepayers, the utility,  
146.22 participants, and society.

146.23 (c) A public utility providing retail service to Minnesota customers may file rate schedules  
146.24 with the commission that provide for annual cost recovery of reasonable and prudent costs  
146.25 incurred to implement and promote cost-effective load management programs approved by  
146.26 the department under this subdivision.

146.27 (d) In determining whether to approve, modify, or reject a proposal made by the  
146.28 department or a public utility for an incentive plan to encourage investments in load  
146.29 management programs, the commission shall consider whether the plan:

146.30 (1) is needed to increase the public utility's investment in cost-effective load management;  
146.31 (2) is compatible with the interest of the public utility's ratepayers; and

147.1 (3) links the incentive to the public utility's performance in achieving cost-effective load  
147.2 management.

147.3 (e) The commission may structure an incentive plan to encourage cost-effective load  
147.4 management programs as an asset on which a public utility earns a rate of return at a level  
147.5 the commission determines is reasonable and in the public interest.

147.6 (f) The commission may include the net benefits from a load management activity  
147.7 integrated with an energy efficiency program approved under this section in the net benefits  
147.8 of the energy efficiency program for purposes of a financial incentive program under section  
147.9 216B.16, subdivision 6c, if the department determines the primary purpose of the load  
147.10 management activity is energy efficiency.

147.11 (g) A public utility is not eligible for a financial incentive for a load management program  
147.12 in any year in which the utility achieves energy savings below one percent of gross annual  
147.13 retail energy sales, excluding savings achieved through load management programs.

147.14 (h) The commission may include net benefits from a particular load management activity  
147.15 in an incentive plan under this subdivision or section 216B.16, subdivision 6c, but not both.

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

147.17 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, is amended by adding a subdivision  
147.18 to read:

147.19 **Subd. 14. Minnesota efficient technology accelerator.** (a) A nonprofit organization  
147.20 with extensive experience implementing energy efficiency programs and conducting  
147.21 energy-efficient technology research in Minnesota may file a proposal with the commissioner  
147.22 for a program to accelerate deployment and reduce the cost of emerging and innovative  
147.23 efficient technologies and approaches and result in lower energy costs for Minnesota  
147.24 ratepayers. The program must include strategic initiatives with technology manufacturers  
147.25 to improve the efficiency and performance of products, and with equipment installers and  
147.26 other key actors in the technology supply chain. The program's goals are to achieve  
147.27 cost-effective energy savings for Minnesota utilities, provide bill savings to Minnesota  
147.28 utility consumers, enhance employment opportunities in Minnesota, and avoid greenhouse  
147.29 gas emissions.

147.30 (b) Prior to developing and filing a proposal, the nonprofit must submit to the  
147.31 commissioner a notice of intent to file a proposal under this subdivision that describes the  
147.32 nonprofit's eligibility with respect to the requirements of paragraph (a). The commissioner

148.1 shall review the notice of intent and issue a determination of eligibility within 30 days of  
148.2 the date the notice of intent is filed.

148.3 (c) Upon receiving approval from the commissioner to file a proposal under this section,  
148.4 a nonprofit organization must engage interested stakeholders in discussions regarding, at a  
148.5 minimum, the following elements required of a program proposal under this subdivision:

148.6 (1) a proposed budget and operational guidelines for the accelerator;

148.7 (2) proposed methodologies to estimate, evaluate, and allocate energy savings and net  
148.8 benefits from program activities. Energy savings and net benefits from program activities  
148.9 must be allocated to participating utilities and must be considered when determining the  
148.10 cost-effectiveness of energy savings achieved by the program and related incentives;

148.11 (3) a process to identify and select technologies that:

148.12 (i) address energy use in residential, commercial, and industrial buildings; and

148.13 (ii) benefit utility customers in proportion to the funds contributed to the program by  
148.14 electric and natural gas utilities, respectively; and

148.15 (4) a process to identify and track performance metrics for each technology selected so  
148.16 that progress toward achieving energy savings can be measured, including one or more  
148.17 methods to evaluate cost-effectiveness.

148.18 (d) No earlier than 180 days from the date of the commissioner's eligibility determination  
148.19 under paragraph (b), the nonprofit may file a program proposal under this subdivision. The  
148.20 filing must address each of the elements listed in paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (4), and the  
148.21 recommendations and concerns identified in the stakeholder engagement process required  
148.22 under paragraph (c). Within 90 days of the filing of the proposal, after notice and comment,  
148.23 and after the commissioner has considered the estimated program costs and benefits from  
148.24 the perspectives of ratepayers, utilities, and society, the commissioner shall approve, modify,  
148.25 or reject the proposal. An approved program may have a term extending up to five years,  
148.26 and may be renewed by the commissioner one or more times for additional terms of up to  
148.27 five years.

148.28 (e) Upon approval of a program under paragraph (d), each public utility with over 30,000  
148.29 customers must participate in the program and contribute to the approved program budget  
148.30 in proportion to the public utility's gross operating revenue from sales of gas or electric  
148.31 service in Minnesota, excluding revenues from large customer facilities exempted under  
148.32 subdivision 1a. A participating utility is not required to contribute more than the following  
148.33 percentages of the utility's spending approved by the commission in the plan filed under

149.1 subdivision 2: (1) two percent in the program's initial two years; (2) 3.5 percent in the  
149.2 program's third and fourth years; and (3) five percent each year thereafter. Other utilities  
149.3 may elect to participate in an approved program.

149.4 (f) A participating utility may request the commissioner to adjust its approved annual  
149.5 budget under subdivision 2, if necessary to meet approved energy savings goals under  
149.6 subdivision 2. Other utilities may elect to participate in the accelerator program.

149.7 (g) Costs incurred by a public utility under this subdivision are recoverable under  
149.8 subdivision 2b as an assessment to the energy and conservation account. Amounts provided  
149.9 to the account under this subdivision are not subject to the cap on assessments in section  
149.10 216B.62. The commissioner may make expenditures from the account for the purposes of  
149.11 this subdivision, including amounts necessary to reimburse administrative costs incurred  
149.12 by the department under this subdivision. Costs for research projects under this subdivision  
149.13 that the commissioner determines may be duplicative to projects that would be eligible for  
149.14 funding under subdivision 1e, paragraph (a), may be deducted from the assessment under  
149.15 subdivision 1e for utilities participating in the accelerator.

149.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective immediately upon enactment.

149.17 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2412, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

149.18 **Subd. 3. Pilot programs.** The commission shall allow one or more rate-regulated utilities  
149.19 to participate in a pilot program to assess the merits of a rate-decoupling strategy to promote  
149.20 energy efficiency and conservation. Each pilot program must utilize the criteria and standards  
149.21 established in subdivision 2 and be designed to determine whether a rate-decoupling strategy  
149.22 achieves energy savings. On or before a date established by the commission, the commission  
149.23 shall require electric and gas utilities that intend to implement a decoupling program to file  
149.24 a decoupling pilot plan, which shall be approved or approved as modified by the commission.

149.25 A pilot program may not exceed three years in length. Any extension beyond three years  
149.26 can only be approved in a general rate case, unless that decoupling program was previously  
149.27 approved as part of a general rate case. ~~The commission shall report on the programs annually~~  
149.28 ~~to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees with primary jurisdiction~~  
149.29 ~~over energy policy.~~

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

150.1 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, is amended by adding a subdivision  
150.2 to read:

150.3 Subd. 7a. Energy storage systems; installation. The commission shall, as part of an  
150.4 order with respect to a public utility's integrated resource plan filed under this section,  
150.5 require a public utility to install one or more energy storage systems, provided that the  
150.6 commission finds the investments are reasonable, prudent, and in the public interest. In  
150.7 determining the aggregate capacity of the energy storage systems ordered under this  
150.8 subdivision, the commission must consider the public utility's assessment of energy storage  
150.9 systems contained in the public utility's integrated resource plan, as required under  
150.10 subdivision 7.

150.11 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and  
150.12 applies to any order issued to a public utility by the commission in an integrated resource  
150.13 plan proceeding after July 1, 2021.

150.14 Sec. 24. **[216B.2427] ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM; APPLICATION.**

150.15 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "energy storage system" has  
150.16 the meaning given in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph (f).

150.17 Subd. 2. **Application requirement.** No later than one year following the commission's  
150.18 order to a public utility in an integrated resource plan proceeding under section 216B.2422,  
150.19 the public utility must submit an application to the commission for review and approval to  
150.20 install one or more energy storage systems whose aggregate capacity meets or exceeds that  
150.21 ordered by the commission in the public utility's most recent integrated resource plan  
150.22 proceeding under section 216B.2422, subdivision 7a.

150.23 Subd. 3. **Application contents.** (a) Each application submitted under this section shall  
150.24 contain the following information:

150.25 (1) technical specifications of the energy storage system, including but not limited to:  
150.26 (i) the maximum amount of electric output that the energy storage system can provide;  
150.27 (ii) the length of time the energy storage system can sustain maximum output;  
150.28 (iii) the location of the project and a description of the analysis conducted to determine  
150.29 the location;  
150.30 (iv) a description of the public utility's electric system needs that the proposed energy  
150.31 storage system address;

151.1        (v) a description of the types of services the energy storage system is expected to provide;  
151.2        and

151.3        (vi) a description of the technology required to construct, operate, and maintain the  
151.4        energy storage system, including any data or communication system necessary to operate  
151.5        the energy storage system;

151.6        (2) the estimated cost of the project, including:

151.7        (i) capital costs;

151.8        (ii) the estimated cost per unit of energy delivered by the energy storage system; and

151.9        (iii) an evaluation of the cost-effectiveness of the energy storage system;

151.10        (3) the estimated benefits of the energy storage system to the public utility's electric  
151.11        system, including but not limited to:

151.12        (i) deferred investments in generation, transmission, or distribution capacity;

151.13        (ii) reduced need for electricity during times of peak demand;

151.14        (iii) improved reliability of the public utility's transmission or distribution system; and

151.15        (iv) improved integration of the public utility's renewable energy resources;

151.16        (4) how the addition of an energy storage system complements proposed actions of the  
151.17        public utility described in the most recent integrated resource plan submitted under section  
151.18        216B.2422 to meet expected demand with the least cost combination of resources; and

151.19        (5) any additional information required by the commission.

151.20        (b) A public utility must include in the application an evaluation of the potential to store  
151.21        energy in the public utility's electric system and must identify geographic areas in the public  
151.22        utility's service area where the deployment of energy storage systems has the greatest  
151.23        potential to achieve the economic benefits identified in paragraph (a), clause (3).

151.24        **Subd. 4. Commission review.** The commission shall review each proposal submitted  
151.25        under this section and may approve, reject, or modify the proposal. The commission shall  
151.26        approve a proposal the commission determines is in the public interest and reasonably  
151.27        balances the value derived from the deployment of an energy storage system for ratepayers  
151.28        and the public utility's operations with the costs of procuring, constructing, operating, and  
151.29        maintaining the energy storage system.

151.30        **Subd. 5. Cost recovery.** A public utility may recover from ratepayers all costs prudently  
151.31        incurred by the public utility to deploy an energy storage system approved by the commission

152.1 under this section, net of any revenues generated by the operation of the energy storage  
152.2 system.

152.3 Subd. 6. Commission authority; orders. The commission may issue orders necessary  
152.4 to implement and administer this section.

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

152.6 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.05, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

152.7 Subd. 2. Energy policy goals. It is the energy policy of the state of Minnesota that:

152.8 (1) annual energy savings equal to at least 1.5 percent of annual retail energy sales of  
152.9 electricity and natural gas ~~be~~ is achieved through cost-effective energy efficiency;

152.10 (2) the per capita use of fossil fuel as an energy input ~~be~~ is reduced by 15 percent by the  
152.11 year 2015, through increased reliance on energy efficiency and renewable energy alternatives;

152.12 (3) 25 percent of the total energy used in the state ~~be~~ Minnesota is derived from renewable  
152.13 energy resources by the year 2025; and

152.14 (4) statewide greenhouse gas emissions from energy use in existing commercial and  
152.15 residential buildings is reduced by 50 percent by 2035 through: (i) continued use of the  
152.16 most effective current energy-saving incentives programs, evaluated by participation and  
152.17 efficacy; and (ii) development and implementation of new programs, prioritizing solutions  
152.18 that achieve the highest overall carbon reduction; and

152.19 (4) (5) retail electricity rates for each customer class ~~be~~ are at least five percent below  
152.20 the national average.

152.21 Sec. 26. **[216C.402] REBUILD RIGHT GRANT PROGRAM.**

152.22 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
152.23 the meanings given.

152.24 (b) "Cold climate air-source heat pump" means a mechanism that heats and cools indoor  
152.25 air by transferring heat from outdoor or indoor air using a fan, a refrigerant-filled heat  
152.26 exchanger, and an inverter-driven compressor that varies the pressure of the refrigerant to  
152.27 warm or cool the refrigerant vapor.

152.28 (c) "Commercial building" means a building:

152.29 (1) with an occupant that is (i) engaged in wholesale or retail trade or the provision of  
152.30 services, or (ii) a restaurant; or

153.1 (2) that contains four or more dwelling units.

153.2 (d) "Energy conservation" has the meaning given in section 216B.241, subdivision 1,  
153.3 paragraph (e).

153.4 (e) "Energy efficiency" has the meaning given in section 216B.241, subdivision 1,  
153.5 paragraph (f).

153.6 (f) "Energy storage system" has the meaning given in section 216B.2422, subdivision  
153.7 1, paragraph (f).

153.8 (g) "Envelope" means the physical elements separating a building's interior and exterior.

153.9 (h) "Grantee" means a person awarded a grant by the commissioner under this section.

153.10 (i) "Ground-source heat pump" means an earth-coupled heating or cooling device  
153.11 consisting of a sealed closed-loop piping system installed in the ground to transfer heat  
153.12 between the surrounding earth and a building.

153.13 (j) "Institutional building" means a building with occupants that provide health care,  
153.14 educational, or government services.

153.15 (k) "Preweatherization measure" means a general repair or measure that affects the health  
153.16 or safety of residents of a dwelling unit and that is required under federal law in order for  
153.17 weatherization services to be provided to the dwelling unit.

153.18 (l) "Qualified energy technology" means:  
153.19 (1) a solar energy system;  
153.20 (2) a measure installed in a building that results in energy efficiency or energy  
153.21 conservation, excluding a natural gas furnace that does not function solely as a backup to  
153.22 a primary heating system utilizing a ground-source heat pump or a cold climate air-source  
153.23 heat pump; or  
153.24 (3) an energy storage system.

153.25 (m) "Residential building" means a building containing one to three residential units.

153.26 (n) "Solar energy system" has the meaning given in section 216C.06, subdivision 17.

153.27 Subd. 2. **Program establishment.** A rebuild right grant program is established in the  
153.28 Department of Commerce to award grants to incorporate qualified energy technologies as  
153.29 part of the renovation or new construction of buildings damaged or destroyed by civil unrest  
153.30 in May and June 2020.

154.1        Subd. 3. Application. (a) An application for a grant under this section must be made to  
154.2        the commissioner on a form developed by the commissioner. The application must include:

154.3        (1) evidence substantiating the applicant's experience required under subdivision 4,  
154.4        paragraph (b);

154.5        (2) information detailing how property owners are notified that financial assistance is  
154.6        available;

154.7        (3) the geographic area within which an applicant proposes to target financial assistance;

154.8        (4) information detailing (i) how the applicant determines whether a proposed project  
154.9        meets the applicable energy standards required under subdivision 5, and (ii) what  
154.10        post-implementation methods are used to assess whether the standards have been met;

154.11        (5) information detailing how the applicant evaluates and ranks project proposals; and

154.12        (6) any other information required by the commissioner.

154.13        (b) The commissioner must develop administrative procedures and processes to review  
154.14        applications and award grants under this section.

154.15        Subd. 4. Eligible applicants. (a) Multiple organizations, including political subdivisions  
154.16        and nonprofit organizations, may jointly file a single application for a grant award under  
154.17        this section.

154.18        (b) Applicants for a grant awarded under this section must have experience:

154.19        (1) analyzing the energy and economic impacts of installing qualified energy technologies  
154.20        in buildings;

154.21        (2) working with contractors to implement projects that install qualified energy  
154.22        technologies in buildings; and

154.23        (3) successfully working with small businesses, community groups, and residents of  
154.24        neighborhoods where a preponderance of the total number of households are low-income  
154.25        households.

154.26        Subd. 5. Eligible activities; energy standards. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b),  
154.27        a renovated or newly constructed commercial or institutional building awarded grant funds  
154.28        under this section must meet, at a minimum, the current Sustainable Building 2030 energy  
154.29        performance standards adopted under section 216B.241, subdivision 9.

154.30        (b) A renovated or newly constructed residential building or a commercial building  
154.31        containing four or more dwelling units awarded grant funds under this section must meet,

155.1 at a minimum, the current energy performance standards for new residential construction  
155.2 or renovations, as applicable, contained in the International Passive House Standard promoted  
155.3 by the North American Passive House Network or the United States Department of Energy's  
155.4 Zero Energy Ready Home.

155.5 Subd. 6. **Eligible properties.** A property is eligible to receive a grant awarded under  
155.6 this section if the property: (1) was damaged or destroyed by civil unrest that occurred in  
155.7 the state in May and June 2020; and (2) is being renovated or constructed to operate as a  
155.8 residential, commercial, or institutional property.

155.9 Subd. 7. **Eligible expenditures.** An appropriation made to support activities under this  
155.10 section may be used to:

155.11 (1) conduct outreach activities to:  
155.12 (i) cities and business associations affected by the civil unrest that occurred in Minnesota  
155.13 in May and June 2020;  
155.14 (ii) persons listed in subdivision 8, clause (1), items (i) to (iv); and  
155.15 (iii) potential building owners who may receive services under the program;  
155.16 (2) purchase and install qualified energy technologies in buildings;  
155.17 (3) pay the reasonable costs incurred by the department to administer this section; and  
155.18 (4) compensate task force members under subdivision 12.

155.19 Subd. 8. **Grant priorities.** When awarding grants under this section, the commissioner  
155.20 must give priority to applications that:

155.21 (1) commit to conduct aggressive outreach programs to provide assistance under this  
155.22 section to eligible owners of buildings:  
155.23 (i) located in census tracts in which 50 percent or more of households have household  
155.24 incomes at or below 60 percent of the state median household income;  
155.25 (ii) located in census tracts designated by the governor as Opportunity Zones under  
155.26 United States Code, title 26, section 1400Z-1, et. seq.;  
155.27 (iii) containing minority-owned businesses, as defined in section 116J.8737; or  
155.28 (iv) containing women-owned businesses, as defined in section 116J.8737;  
155.29 (2) commit to employ contractors that pay employees a wage comparable to, as  
155.30 determined by the commissioner, the prevailing wage rate, as defined in section 177.42; or

156.1 (3) leverage additional funding to be used for the purposes of this section.

156.2 Subd. 9. **Limits.** Grant funds awarded under this section to support the renovation or  
156.3 construction of building envelopes and energy systems in commercial or institutional  
156.4 buildings may be used to pay the difference between (1) the cost to renovate or construct a  
156.5 building's envelope or energy system to meet the current applicable energy code, and (2)  
156.6 the cost to meet the standards required under subdivision 5. The commissioner must develop  
156.7 a methodology to calculate the cost to renovate or construct a commercial or institutional  
156.8 building's envelope and energy system to meet current applicable energy code standards,  
156.9 which must be used by a grantee to determine the amount awarded to a building owner.

156.10 Subd. 10. **Awards to building owners.** A commercial or institutional building owner  
156.11 seeking funding from a grant awarded under this section must submit an application to the  
156.12 grantee that includes:

156.13 (1) evidence that the building is eligible to receive a grant under this section, including  
156.14 documentation of damage done to the building;

156.15 (2) a description of the project, including cost estimates for major project elements;  
156.16 (3) documentation that the measures funded result in the building meeting the applicable  
156.17 energy standards of subdivision 5; and

156.18 (4) any other information required by a grantee.

156.19 Subd. 11. **Grantee reports.** Recipients of a grant awarded under this section must file  
156.20 semiannual reports with the commissioner containing:

156.21 (1) a list of properties where grant funds have been expended, the amount of the  
156.22 expenditures, and the nature of the energy efficiency measures and renewable energy systems  
156.23 installed;

156.24 (2) estimated energy savings and greenhouse gas emissions reductions resulting from  
156.25 expenditures made under this section compared with estimated levels of energy use and  
156.26 greenhouse gas emissions associated with those properties in 2019; and

156.27 (3) any other information required by the commissioner.

156.28 Subd. 12. **Advisory task force.** (a) Within 60 days of the effective date of this act, the  
156.29 commissioner must select and appoint eight members to a Rebuild Right Advisory Task  
156.30 Force and must convene the initial meeting of the task force. The advisory task force must  
156.31 include:

156.32 (1) one representative of the public utility subject to section 116C.779, subdivision 1;

157.1 (2) one representative of the Prairie Island Indian Community;

157.2 (3) one representative of organized labor;

157.3 (4) two representatives of organizations with expertise installing energy conservation

157.4 measures and renewable energy programs in buildings;

157.5 (5) one representative of organizations that advocate for energy policies addressing

157.6 low-income households; and

157.7 (6) two representatives of organizations representing businesses located in areas that

157.8 experienced extensive property damage from civil unrest in Minnesota in May and June

157.9 2020.

157.10 (b) Within 60 days of the effective date of this act, the state senators and state

157.11 representatives representing Minneapolis neighborhoods that suffered extensive property

157.12 damage from civil unrest in May and June 2020 must jointly appoint as task force members

157.13 two residents who live in the neighborhoods where the property damage occurred.

157.14 (c) Within 60 days of the effective date of this act, the state senators and state

157.15 representatives representing St. Paul neighborhoods that suffered extensive property damage

157.16 from civil unrest in May and June 2020 must jointly appoint as task force members two

157.17 residents who live in the neighborhoods where the property damage occurred.

157.18 (d) Members of the advisory task force appointed under paragraph (a), clauses (1) to

157.19 (3), are nonvoting members. All other members are voting members.

157.20 (e) The Department of Commerce must serve as staff and provide administrative support

157.21 to the advisory task force.

157.22 (f) The advisory task force must advise the commissioner throughout the development

157.23 of the request for proposal and grant award process, and may recommend funding priorities

157.24 in addition to those listed in subdivision 8. Within 60 days of the initial meeting, the advisory

157.25 task force must present recommendations to the commissioner regarding the content of the

157.26 request for proposal.

157.27 (g) An organization that is represented on the advisory task force must not be awarded

157.28 a grant under this section.

157.29 (h) Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 6, advisory task force members may

157.30 be compensated as provided under section 15.059, subdivision 3.

157.31 (i) The advisory task force established under this subdivision expires two years after the

157.32 effective date of this act.

158.1      Subd. 13. Report. Beginning January 15, 2022, and continuing each January 15 through  
158.2      2026, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members  
158.3      of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy policy.  
158.4      The report must contain:

158.5      (1) a list of the grant awards made under this section;  
158.6      (2) summaries of the grantee reports submitted under subdivision 10; and  
158.7      (3) other information deemed relevant by the commissioner.

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

158.9      Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 326B.106, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

158.10      **Subdivision 1. Adoption of code.** (a) Subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) and sections  
158.11      326B.101 to 326B.194, the commissioner shall by rule and in consultation with the  
158.12      Construction Codes Advisory Council establish a code of standards for the construction,  
158.13      reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings, governing matters of structural materials,  
158.14      design and construction, fire protection, health, sanitation, and safety, including design and  
158.15      construction standards regarding heat loss control, illumination, and climate control. The  
158.16      code must also include duties and responsibilities for code administration, including  
158.17      procedures for administrative action, penalties, and suspension and revocation of certification.  
158.18      The code must conform insofar as practicable to model building codes generally accepted  
158.19      and in use throughout the United States, including a code for building conservation. In the  
158.20      preparation of the code, consideration must be given to the existing statewide specialty  
158.21      codes presently in use in the state. Model codes with necessary modifications and statewide  
158.22      specialty codes may be adopted by reference. The code must be based on the application  
158.23      of scientific principles, approved tests, and professional judgment. To the extent possible,  
158.24      the code must be adopted in terms of desired results instead of the means of achieving those  
158.25      results, avoiding wherever possible the incorporation of specifications of particular methods  
158.26      or materials. To that end the code must encourage the use of new methods and new materials.  
158.27      Except as otherwise provided in sections 326B.101 to 326B.194, the commissioner shall  
158.28      administer and enforce the provisions of those sections.

158.29      (b) The commissioner shall develop rules addressing the plan review fee assessed to  
158.30      similar buildings without significant modifications including provisions for use of building  
158.31      systems as specified in the industrial/modular program specified in section 326B.194.  
158.32      Additional plan review fees associated with similar plans must be based on costs  
158.33      commensurate with the direct and indirect costs of the service.

159.1 (c) Beginning with the 2018 edition of the model building codes and every six years  
159.2 thereafter, the commissioner shall review the new model building codes and adopt the model  
159.3 codes as amended for use in Minnesota, within two years of the published edition date. The  
159.4 commissioner may adopt amendments to the building codes prior to the adoption of the  
159.5 new building codes to advance construction methods, technology, or materials, or, where  
159.6 necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, or to improve the efficiency  
159.7 or the use of a building.

159.8 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), the commissioner shall act on each new model  
159.9 residential energy code and the new model commercial energy code in accordance with  
159.10 federal law for which the United States Department of Energy has issued an affirmative  
159.11 determination in compliance with United States Code, title 42, section 6833. Beginning in  
159.12 2022, the commissioner shall act on the new model commercial energy code by adopting  
159.13 each new published edition of ASHRAE 90.1 or a more efficient standard, and amending  
159.14 the standard as necessary to achieve a minimum of eight percent energy efficiency with  
159.15 each edition, as measured against energy consumption by an average building in each  
159.16 applicable building sector in 2003. These amendments must achieve a net zero energy  
159.17 standard for new commercial buildings by 2036 and thereafter. The commissioner may  
159.18 adopt amendments prior to adoption of the new energy codes, as amended for use in  
159.19 Minnesota, to advance construction methods, technology, or materials, or, where necessary  
159.20 to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, or to improve the efficiency or use  
159.21 of a building.

159.22 Sec. 28. **SUPPLEMENTING WEATHERIZATION SERVICES.**

159.23 (a) The state may implement preweatherization measures and qualified energy  
159.24 technologies in dwelling units of low-income households that are: (1) receiving  
159.25 weatherization services delivered under the federal Weatherization Assistance Program  
159.26 authorized under United States Code, title 42, section 6861, et. seq.; and (2) located in  
159.27 neighborhoods adjacent to areas that experienced property damage resulting from civil  
159.28 unrest in May and June 2020, as determined by the commissioner of commerce.

159.29 (b) Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.264, subdivisions 1 to 3 and 6, apply to assistance  
159.30 provided under this section.

159.31 (c) The commissioner of commerce may require the design heating load of a dwelling  
159.32 unit receiving assistance under this section to be no more than 12 British Thermal Units per  
159.33 hour per square foot after all preweatherization measures financed under this section,

160.1 qualified energy technologies financed under this section, and weatherization measures  
160.2 provided under the federal weatherization program are implemented.

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

160.4 **Sec. 29. **TASK FORCE ON EXPANDING THE PROVISION OF****

160.5 **WEATHERIZATION SERVICES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

160.23 (2) individual Weatherization Assistance Program service providers;

160.24 (3) investor-owned utilities;

160.25 (4) electric cooperatives and municipal utilities;

160.26 (5) low-income energy advocates;

160.27 (6) Tribal nations; and

160.28 (7) delivered fuel dealers.

160.29 (b) Task force members serve without compensation.

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

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

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

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

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

161.12 Subd. 5. Duties. The task force must:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

162.8      Sec. 30. TRANSFER.

162.9      Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j),  
162.10     \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 are transferred from the  
162.11     renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
162.12     subdivision 1, to the commissioner of administration for deposit in the state building energy  
162.13     conservation improvement account established in Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.86, to  
162.14     provide loans to state agencies for energy conservation projects under Minnesota Statutes,  
162.15     section 16B.87.

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

162.17      Sec. 31. APPROPRIATION.

162.18      Subdivision 1. State building energy conservation loan account. Notwithstanding  
162.19     Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$249,000 in fiscal year  
162.20     2022 and \$137,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development  
162.21     account to the commissioner of administration for software and administrative costs  
162.22     associated with the state building energy conservation improvement revolving loan program  
162.23     under Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.87. The base in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 is  
162.24     \$137,000.

162.25      Subd. 2. Building energy codes. \$146,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the  
162.26     general fund to the commissioner of labor and industry to implement new commercial  
162.27     energy codes, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.106, subdivision 1. This is  
162.28     a onetime appropriation.

162.29      Subd. 3. Rebuild right grants. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
162.30     subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the  
162.31     renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
162.32     subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce to award rebuild right grants to building

163.1 owners, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.402. This is a onetime  
163.2 appropriation.

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

163.4 Sec. 32. **REPEALER.**

163.5 Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.241, subdivisions 1, 1b, 2c, 4, and 10, are  
163.6 repealed.

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

## 163.8 **ARTICLE 8**

### 163.9 **ENERGY TRANSITION**

163.10 Section 1. **[116J.5491] ENERGY TRANSITION OFFICE.**

163.11 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For purposes of sections 116J.5491 to 116J.5493, the  
163.12 following terms have the meanings given.

163.13 (b) "Impacted facility" means an electric generating unit that is or was owned by a public  
163.14 utility, as defined in section 216B.02, subdivision 4, and that:

163.15 (1) is currently operating and (i) is scheduled to cease operations, or (ii) whose cessation  
163.16 of operations has been proposed in an integrated resource plan filed with the Public Utilities  
163.17 Commission under section 216B.2422; or

163.18 (2) ceased operations or was removed from the local property tax base no earlier than  
163.19 five years before the effective date of this section.

163.20 (c) "Impacted community" means a municipality, Tribal government, or county in which  
163.21 an impacted facility is located.

163.22 (d) "Impacted worker" means a Minnesota resident:

163.23 (1) employed at an impacted facility and who is facing the loss of employment as a result  
163.24 of the impacted facility's retirement; or

163.25 (2) employed by a company that, under contract, regularly performs construction,  
163.26 maintenance, or repair work at an impacted facility, and who is facing the loss of employment  
163.27 or of work opportunities as a result of the impacted facility's retirement.

163.28 Subd. 2. **Office established; director.** (a) The Energy Transition Office is established  
163.29 in the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

164.1        (b) The director of the Energy Transition Office is appointed by the governor. The  
164.2        director must be qualified by experience in issues related to energy, economic development,  
164.3        and the environment.

164.4        (c) The office may employ staff necessary to carry out the duties required in this section.

164.5        Subd. 3. Purpose. The purpose of the office is to:

164.6        (1) address economic dislocations experienced by impacted workers after an impacted  
164.7        facility is retired;

164.8        (2) implement recommendations of the Minnesota energy transition plan developed in  
164.9        section 116J.5493;

164.10        (3) improve communication among local, state, federal, and private entities regarding  
164.11        impacted facility retirement planning and implementation;

164.12        (4) address local tax and fiscal issues related to the impacted facility's retirement and  
164.13        develop strategies to reduce economic dislocations of impacted communities and impacted  
164.14        workers; and

164.15        (5) assist the establishment and implementation of economic support programs, including  
164.16        but not limited to property tax revenue replacement, community energy transition programs,  
164.17        and economic development tools, for impacted communities and impacted workers.

164.18        Subd. 4. Duties. The office is authorized to:

164.19        (1) administer programs to support impacted communities and impacted workers;

164.20        (2) coordinate resources at local, state, and federal levels to support impacted communities  
164.21        and impacted workers that are subject to significant economic transition;

164.22        (3) coordinate the development of a statewide policy on impacted communities and  
164.23        impacted workers;

164.24        (4) deliver programs and resources to impacted communities and impacted workers;

164.25        (5) support impacted workers by establishing benefits and educating impacted workers  
164.26        on applying for benefits;

164.27        (6) act as a liaison among impacted communities, impacted workers, and state agencies;

164.28        (7) assist state agencies to (i) address local tax, land use, economic development, and  
164.29        fiscal issues related to an impacted facility's retirement, and (ii) develop strategies to support  
164.30        impacted communities and impacted workers;

165.1        (8) review existing programs supporting impacted workers and identify gaps that need  
165.2        to be addressed;

165.3        (9) support the activities of the energy transition advisory committee members;

165.4        (10) monitor transition efforts in other states and localities;

165.5        (11) identify impacted facility closures and estimate job losses and the effect on impacted  
165.6        communities and impacted workers;

165.7        (12) maintain communication regarding closure dates with all affected parties; and

165.8        (13) monitor and participate in administrative proceedings that affect the office's activities,  
165.9        including matters before the Public Utilities Commission, the Department of Commerce,  
165.10        the Department of Revenue, and other entities.

165.11        Subd. 5. Reporting. (a) Beginning January 15, 2023, and each year thereafter, the Energy  
165.12        Transition Office must submit a written report to the chairs and ranking minority members  
165.13        of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy, economic development, and tax  
165.14        policy and finance on the office's activities during the previous year.

165.15        (b) The report must contain:

165.16        (1) a list of impacted facility closures, projected associated job losses, and the effect on  
165.17        impacted communities and impacted workers;

165.18        (2) recommendations to support impacted communities and impacted workers;

165.19        (3) information on the administration of assistance programs administered by the office;  
165.20        and

165.21        (4) updates on implementation of the Minnesota energy transition plan.

165.22        Subd. 6. Gifts; grants; donations. The office may accept gifts and grants on behalf of  
165.23        the state that constitute donations to the state. Funds received under this subdivision are  
165.24        appropriated to the commissioner of employment and economic development to support  
165.25        the purposes of the office.

165.26        Sec. 2. [116J.5492] ENERGY TRANSITION ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

165.27        Subdivision 1. Creation; purpose. The Energy Transition Advisory Committee is  
165.28        established to develop a statewide energy transition plan and to advise the governor, the  
165.29        commissioner, and the legislature on transition issues, established transition programs,  
165.30        economic initiatives, and transition policy.

166.1      Subd. 2. Membership. (a) The advisory committee consists of 18 voting members and  
166.2      seven ex officio nonvoting members.

166.3      (b) The voting members of the advisory committee are appointed by the commissioner  
166.4      of employment and economic development, except as specified below:

166.5      (1) two members of the senate, one appointed by the majority leader of the senate and  
166.6      one appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

166.7      (2) two members of the house of representatives, one appointed by the speaker of the  
166.8      house of representatives and one appointed by the minority leader of the house of  
166.9      representatives;

166.10      (3) one representative of the Prairie Island Indian community;

166.11      (4) four representatives of impacted communities, of which two must represent counties  
166.12      and two must represent municipalities, and, to the extent possible, of the impacted facilities  
166.13      in those communities, at least one must be a coal plant, at least one must be a nuclear plant,  
166.14      and at least one must be a natural gas plant;

166.15      (5) three representatives of impacted workers at impacted facilities;

166.16      (6) one representative of impacted workers employed by companies that, under contract,  
166.17      regularly perform construction, maintenance, or repair work at an impacted facility;

166.18      (7) one representative with professional economic development or workforce retraining  
166.19      experience;

166.20      (8) two representatives of utilities that operate an impacted facility;

166.21      (9) one representative from a nonprofit organization with expertise and experience  
166.22      delivering energy efficiency and conservation programs; and

166.23      (10) one representative from the Coalition of Utility Cities.

166.24      (c) The ex officio nonvoting members of the advisory committee consist of:

166.25      (1) the governor or the governor's designee;

166.26      (2) the commissioner of employment and economic development or the commissioner's  
166.27      designee;

166.28      (3) the commissioner of commerce, or the commissioner's designee;

166.29      (4) the commissioner of labor and industry or the commissioner's designee;

166.30      (5) the commissioner of revenue or the commissioner's designee;

167.1 (6) the executive secretary of the Public Utilities Commission or the secretary's designee;

167.2 and

167.3 (7) the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency or the commissioner's designee.

167.4 **Subd. 3. Initial appointments and first meeting.** The appointing authorities must  
167.5 appoint the members of the advisory committee by August 1, 2021. The commissioner of  
167.6 employment and economic development must convene the first meeting by September 1,  
167.7 2021, and must act as chair until the advisory committee elects a chair at the first meeting.

167.8 **Subd. 4. Officers.** The committee must elect a chair and vice-chair from among the  
167.9 voting members for terms of two years.

167.10 **Subd. 5. Open meetings.** Advisory committee meetings are subject to chapter 13D.

167.11 **Subd. 6. Conflict of interest.** An advisory committee member is prohibited from  
167.12 discussing or voting on issues relating to an organization in which the member has either a  
167.13 direct or indirect financial interest.

167.14 **Subd. 7. Gifts; grants; donations.** The advisory committee may accept gifts and grants  
167.15 on behalf of the state and that constitute donations to the state. Funds received under this  
167.16 subdivision are appropriated to the commissioner of employment and economic development  
167.17 to support the activities of the advisory committee.

167.18 **Subd. 8. Meetings.** The advisory committee must meet monthly until the energy transition  
167.19 plan is submitted to the governor and the legislature. The chair may call additional meetings  
167.20 as necessary.

167.21 **Subd. 9. Staff.** The Department of Employment and Economic Development shall serve  
167.22 as staff for the advisory committee.

167.23 **Subd. 10. Expiration.** This section expires the day after the Minnesota energy transition  
167.24 plan required under section 116J.5493 is submitted to the legislature and the governor.

167.25 **Sec. 3. [116J.5493] MINNESOTA ENERGY TRANSITION PLAN.**

167.26 (a) By July 1, 2022, the Energy Transition Advisory Committee established in section  
167.27 116J.5492 must submit a statewide energy transition plan to the governor and the chairs  
167.28 and ranking minority members of the legislative committees having jurisdiction over  
167.29 economic development and energy.

167.30 (b) The energy transition plan must, at a minimum, for each impacted facility:

168.1        (1) identify the timing and location of impacted facility retirements and projected job  
168.2        losses in communities;

168.3        (2) analyze the estimated fiscal impact of impacted facility retirements on local  
168.4        governments;

168.5        (3) describe the statutes and administrative processes that govern how retired utility  
168.6        property impacts a local government tax base;

168.7        (4) review existing state programs that might support impacted communities and impacted  
168.8        workers, and a projection of how effective or ineffective the programs might be in responding  
168.9        to the effects of impacted facility retirements; and

168.10        (5) recommend how to effectively respond to the economic effects of impacted facility  
168.11        retirements.

168.12        **Sec. 4. [116J.5501] MINNESOTA INNOVATION FINANCE AUTHORITY.**

168.13        Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
168.14        the meanings given.

168.15        (b) "Authority" means the Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority.

168.16        (c) "Clean energy project" has the meaning given to qualified project in paragraph (j),  
168.17        clauses (1) to (4).

168.18        (d) "Credit enhancement" means a pool of capital set aside to cover potential losses on  
168.19        loans made by private lenders, including but not limited to loan loss reserves and loan  
168.20        guarantees.

168.21        (e) "Energy storage system" has the meaning given in section 216B.2422, subdivision  
168.22        1, paragraph (f).

168.23        (f) "Fuel cell" means a cell that converts the chemical energy of hydrogen directly into  
168.24        electricity through electrochemical reactions.

168.25        (g) "Greenhouse gas emissions" has the meaning given to statewide greenhouse gas  
168.26        emissions in section 216H.01, subdivision 2.

168.27        (h) "Loan loss reserve" means a pool of capital set aside to reimburse a private lender  
168.28        if a customer defaults on a loan, up to an agreed upon percentage of loans originated by the  
168.29        private lender.

169.1        (i) "Microgrid system" means an electrical grid that serves a discrete geographical area  
169.2        from distributed energy resources and can operate independently from the central electric  
169.3        grid on a temporary basis.

169.4        (j) "Qualified project" means:

169.5        (1) a project, technology, product, service, or measure that:

169.6        (i) reduces energy use while providing the same level and quality of service or output  
169.7        obtained before the application of the project;

169.8        (ii) shifts the use of electricity by retail customers in response to changes in the price of  
169.9        electricity that vary over time, or other incentives designed to shift electricity demand from  
169.10        times when market prices are high or when system reliability is jeopardized; or

169.11        (iii) significantly reduces greenhouse gas emissions relative to greenhouse gas emissions  
169.12        produced before implementing the project, excluding projects that generate power from the  
169.13        combustion of fossil fuels;

169.14        (2) the development, construction, deployment, alteration, or repair of any:

169.15        (i) project, technology, product, service, or measure that generates electric power from  
169.16        renewable energy; or

169.17        (ii) distributed generation system, energy storage system, smart grid technology, microgrid  
169.18        system, fuel cell system, or combined heat and power system;

169.19        (3) the installation, construction, or use of end-use electric technology that replaces  
169.20        existing fossil fuel-based technology;

169.21        (4) a project, technology, product, service, or measure that supports the development  
169.22        and deployment of electric vehicle charging stations and associated infrastructure;

169.23        (5) agriculture projects that reduce net greenhouse gas emissions or improve climate  
169.24        resiliency, including but not limited to reforestation, afforestation, forestry management,  
169.25        and regenerative agriculture;

169.26        (6) the construction or enhancement of infrastructure that is planned, designed, and  
169.27        operated in a manner that anticipates, prepares for, and adapts to current and projected  
169.28        changing climate conditions so that the infrastructure withstands, responds to, and more  
169.29        readily recovers from disruptions caused by the current and projected changing climate  
169.30        conditions; and

169.31        (7) the development, construction, deployment, alteration, or repair of any project,  
169.32        technology, product, service, or measure that:

170.1        (i) reduces water use while providing the same or better level and quality of service or  
170.2        output that was obtained before implementing the water-saving approach; or

170.3        (ii) protects, restores, or preserves the quality of groundwater and surface waters,  
170.4        including but not limited to actions that further the purposes of the Clean Water Legacy  
170.5        Act, as provided in section 114D.10, subdivision 1.

170.6        (k) "Regenerative agriculture" means the deployment of farming methods that reduce  
170.7        agriculture's contribution to climate change by increasing the soil's ability to absorb  
170.8        atmospheric carbon and convert the atmospheric carbon to soil carbon.

170.9        (l) "Renewable energy" means energy generated from the following sources:

170.10        (1) solar;

170.11        (2) wind;

170.12        (3) geothermal;

170.13        (4) hydro;

170.14        (5) trees or other vegetation;

170.15        (6) anaerobic digestion of organic waste streams; and

170.16        (7) fuel cells using energy sources listed in this paragraph.

170.17        (m) "Smart grid" means a digital technology that allows for two-way communication  
170.18        between a utility and the utility's customers that enables the utility to control power flow  
170.19        and load in real time.

170.20        (n) "Task force" means the task force of the Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority.

170.21        **Subd. 2. Establishment; purpose.** (a) By October 15, 2021, the Minnesota Innovation  
170.22        Finance Authority Task Force established in this section must establish the Minnesota  
170.23        Innovation Finance Authority as a nonprofit corporation under chapter 317A and must seek  
170.24        designation as a charitable tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal  
170.25        Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

170.26        (b) When incorporated, the authority's purpose is to accelerate the deployment of clean  
170.27        energy and other qualified projects by reducing the upfront and total cost of adoption, which  
170.28        the authority achieves by leveraging existing public sources and additional private sources  
170.29        of capital through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of loans, credit  
170.30        enhancements, and other financing mechanisms. The initial directors of the nonprofit  
170.31        corporation must include at least a majority of the members of the task force and must

171.1 include, as nonvoting ex officio members, the commissioner of commerce or the  
171.2 commissioner's designee and the commissioner of employment and economic development  
171.3 or the commissioner's designee. The task force must engage independent legal counsel with  
171.4 relevant experience in nonprofit corporation law and clean energy financing.

171.5 (c) The Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority must:

171.6 (1) identify underserved markets for qualified projects in Minnesota, develop programs  
171.7 to overcome market impediments, and provide access to financing to serve the projects and  
171.8 underserved markets;

171.9 (2) strategically use authority funds to leverage private investment in qualified projects,  
171.10 achieving a high ratio of private to public funds invested through funding mechanisms that  
171.11 support, enhance, and complement private investment;

171.12 (3) coordinate with existing government- and utility-based programs to make the most  
171.13 efficient use of the authority's funds, ensure that financing terms and conditions offered are  
171.14 well-suited to qualified projects, and ensure the authority's activities add to and complement  
171.15 the efforts of these partners;

171.16 (4) stimulate demand for qualified projects by serving as a single point of access for a  
171.17 customer to obtain technical information on energy conservation and renewable energy  
171.18 measures, for contractors who install energy conservation and renewable energy measures,  
171.19 and for financing to reduce the upfront and total costs to borrowers, including through:

171.20 (i) serving as a clearinghouse for information about federal, state, and utility financial  
171.21 assistance for qualifying projects in targeted underserved markets, including coordinating  
171.22 efforts with the energy conservation programs administered by the customer's utility under  
171.23 section 216B.241 and other programs offered to low-income households;

171.24 (ii) forming partnerships with contractors and educating contractors regarding the  
171.25 authority's financing programs;

171.26 (iii) coordinating multiple contractors on projects that install multiple qualifying  
171.27 technologies; and

171.28 (iv) developing innovative marketing strategies to stimulate project owner interest in  
171.29 targeted underserved markets;

171.30 (5) develop rules, policies, and procedures specifying borrower eligibility and other  
171.31 terms and conditions of financial support offered by the authority;

172.1        (6) develop consumer protection standards governing the authority's investments to  
172.2        ensure the authority and partners provide financial support in a responsible and transparent  
172.3        manner that is in the financial interest of participating project owners;

172.4        (7) develop and administer policies to collect reasonable fees for authority services that  
172.5        are sufficient to support ongoing authority activities;

172.6        (8) develop and adopt a workplan to accomplish all of the activities required of the  
172.7        authority, and update the workplan on an annual basis; and

172.8        (9) establish and maintain a comprehensive website providing access to all authority  
172.9        programs and financial products, including rates, terms, and conditions of all financing  
172.10        support programs, unless disclosure of the information constitutes a trade secret or  
172.11        confidential commercial or financial information.

172.12        Subd. 3. Additional authorized activities. The authority is authorized to:

172.13        (1) engage in any activities of a Minnesota nonprofit corporation operating under chapter  
172.14        317A;

172.15        (2) develop and employ the following financing methods to support qualified projects:

172.16        (i) credit enhancement mechanisms that reduce financial risk for private lenders by  
172.17        providing assurance that a limited portion of a loan is assumed by the authority by means  
172.18        of a loan loss reserve, loan guarantee, or other mechanism;

172.19        (ii) co-investment, in which the authority invests directly in a clean energy project  
172.20        through the provision of senior or subordinated debt, equity, or other mechanisms in  
172.21        conjunction with a private financier's investment; and

172.22        (iii) serve as an aggregator of many small and geographically dispersed qualified projects,  
172.23        in which the authority may provide direct lending, investment, or other financial support in  
172.24        order to diversify risk;

172.25        (3) serve as the designated state entity to apply for and accept federal funds authorized  
172.26        by Congress under a federal climate bank, federal green bank, or other similar entity, provided  
172.27        that the commissioner of commerce authorizes the application; and

172.28        (4) seek to qualify as a Community Development Financial Institution under United  
172.29        States Code, title 12, section 4702, in which case the authority must be treated as a qualified  
172.30        community development entity for the purposes of sections 45D and 1400(m) of the Internal  
172.31        Revenue Code.

173.1 Subd. 4. Task force; membership. (a) The task force of the Minnesota Innovation

173.2 Finance Authority is established and consists of nine members as follows:

173.3 (1) the commissioner of commerce or the commissioner's designee, as a nonvoting ex  
173.4 officio member;

173.5 (2) the commissioner of employment and economic development or the commissioner's  
173.6 designee, as a nonvoting ex officio member;

173.7 (3) three additional members appointed by the governor;

173.8 (4) two additional members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

173.9 and

173.10 (5) two additional members appointed by the president of the senate.

173.11 (b) The members appointed to the task force under paragraph (a), clauses (3) to (5), must  
173.12 have expertise in matters relating to energy conservation, clean energy, economic  
173.13 development, banking, law, finance, or other matters relevant to the work of the task force.

173.14 When appointing a member to the task force, consideration must be given to whether the  
173.15 task force members collectively reflect the geographical and ethnic diversity of Minnesota.

173.16 (c) Task force members must be appointed by August 15, 2021.

173.17 (d) The task force expires when the authority is established as a nonprofit corporation  
173.18 under chapter 317A.

173.19 Subd. 5. Report. By June 30, 2022, and by June 30 each year thereafter, the authority  
173.20 must submit a comprehensive annual report on the authority's activities to the governor and  
173.21 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with primary  
173.22 jurisdiction over energy policy. The report must contain, at a minimum, information on:

173.23 (1) the amount of authority capital invested, by project type;

173.24 (2) the amount of private capital leveraged as a result of authority investments, by project  
173.25 type;

173.26 (3) the number of qualified projects supported, by project type, and the location of the  
173.27 projects within Minnesota;

173.28 (4) the estimated number of jobs created and tax revenue generated as a result of the  
173.29 authority's activities;

173.30 (5) the number of clean energy projects financed in low- and moderate-income  
173.31 households; and

174.1        (6) the authority's financial statements.

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

174.3        Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.16, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

174.4        **Subd. 6. Factors considered, generally.** The commission, in the exercise of its powers  
174.5        under this chapter to determine just and reasonable rates for public utilities, shall give due  
174.6        consideration to the public need for adequate, efficient, and reasonable service and to the  
174.7        need of the public utility for revenue sufficient to enable it to meet the cost of furnishing  
174.8        the service, including adequate provision for depreciation of its utility property used and  
174.9        useful in rendering service to the public, and to earn a fair and reasonable return upon the  
174.10        investment in such property. In determining the rate base upon which the utility is to be  
174.11        allowed to earn a fair rate of return, the commission shall give due consideration to evidence  
174.12        of the cost of the property when first devoted to public use, to prudent acquisition cost to  
174.13        the public utility less appropriate depreciation on each, to construction work in progress, to  
174.14        offsets in the nature of capital provided by sources other than the investors, and to other  
174.15        expenses of a capital nature. For purposes of determining rate base, the commission shall  
174.16        consider the original cost of utility property included in the base and shall make no allowance  
174.17        for its estimated current replacement value. If the commission orders a generating facility  
174.18        to terminate its operations before the end of the facility's physical life in order to comply  
174.19        with a specific state or federal energy ~~statute or~~ policy, the commission may allow the public  
174.20        utility to recover any positive net book value of the facility as determined by the commission.

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

174.22        Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.16, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

174.23        **Subd. 13. Economic and community development.** The commission may allow a  
174.24        public utility to recover from ratepayers the reasonable expenses incurred (1) for economic  
174.25        and community development, and (2) to employ local workers to construct and maintain  
174.26        generation facilities that supply power to the utility's customers.

174.27        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
174.28        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

174.29        Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1645, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

174.30        **Subdivision 1. Commission authority.** Upon the petition of a public utility, the Public  
174.31        Utilities Commission shall approve or disapprove power purchase contracts, investments,  
174.32        or expenditures entered into or made by the utility to satisfy the wind and biomass mandates

175.1 contained in sections 216B.169, 216B.2423, and 216B.2424, and to satisfy the renewable  
175.2 and solar energy objectives and standards set forth in section 216B.1691, and to provide  
175.3 additional clean energy resources beyond the proportions required by the mandates and  
175.4 standards, including reasonable investments and expenditures, net of revenues, made to:

175.5 (1) transmit the electricity generated from sources developed under those sections that  
175.6 is ultimately used to provide service to the utility's retail customers, including studies  
175.7 necessary to identify new transmission facilities needed to transmit electricity to Minnesota  
175.8 retail customers from generating facilities constructed to satisfy the renewable energy  
175.9 objectives and standards, provided that the costs of the studies have not been recovered  
175.10 previously under existing tariffs and the utility has filed an application for a certificate of  
175.11 need or for certification as a priority project under section 216B.2425 for the new  
175.12 transmission facilities identified in the studies;

175.13 (2) provide storage facilities for renewable energy generation facilities that contribute  
175.14 to the reliability, efficiency, or cost-effectiveness of the renewable facilities; or

175.15 (3) develop renewable energy sources from the account required in section 116C.779.

175.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
175.17 initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

175.18 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1645, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

175.19 Subd. 2. **Cost recovery.** The expenses incurred by the utility over the duration of the  
175.20 approved contract or useful life of the investment and, expenditures made pursuant to section  
175.21 116C.779 shall be, and the expenses incurred to employ local workers to construct and  
175.22 maintain generation facilities that supply power to the utility's customers are recoverable  
175.23 from the ratepayers of the utility, to the extent they the expenses or expenditures are not  
175.24 offset by utility revenues attributable to the contracts, investments, or expenditures, and if  
175.25 the expenses or expenditures are deemed reasonable by the commission. Upon petition by  
175.26 a public utility, the commission shall approve or approve as modified a rate schedule  
175.27 providing for the automatic adjustment of charges to recover the expenses or costs approved  
175.28 by the commission under subdivision 1, which, in the case of transmission expenditures,  
175.29 are limited to the portion of actual transmission costs that are directly allocable to the need  
175.30 to transmit power from the renewable sources of energy. The commission may not approve  
175.31 recovery of the costs for that portion of the power generated from sources governed by this  
175.32 section that the utility sells into the wholesale market.

176.1        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
176.2        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

176.3        Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

176.4        Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) Unless otherwise specified in law, "eligible energy  
176.5        technology" means an energy technology that generates electricity from the following  
176.6        renewable energy sources:

176.7        (1) solar;

176.8        (2) wind;

176.9        (3) hydroelectric with a capacity of less than 100 megawatts;

176.10       (4) hydrogen, ~~provided that after January 1, 2010, the hydrogen must be~~ generated from  
176.11       the resources listed in this paragraph; or

176.12       (5) biomass, which includes, without limitation, landfill gas; an anaerobic digester  
176.13       system; the predominantly organic components of wastewater effluent, sludge, or related  
176.14       by-products from publicly owned treatment works, but not including incineration of  
176.15       wastewater sludge to produce electricity; and, except as provided in subdivision 1a, an  
176.16       energy recovery facility used to capture the heat value of mixed municipal solid waste or  
176.17       refuse-derived fuel from mixed municipal solid waste as a primary fuel.

176.18       (b) "Electric utility" means a public utility providing electric service, a generation and  
176.19       transmission cooperative electric association, a municipal power agency, or a power district.

176.20       (c) "Total retail electric sales" means the kilowatt-hours of electricity sold in a year by  
176.21       an electric utility to retail customers of the electric utility or to a distribution utility for  
176.22       distribution to the retail customers of the distribution utility. "Total retail electric sales"  
176.23       does not include the sale of hydroelectricity supplied by a federal power marketing  
176.24       administration or other federal agency, regardless of whether the sales are directly to a  
176.25       distribution utility or are made to a generation and transmission utility and pooled for further  
176.26       allocation to a distribution utility.

176.27       (d) "Carbon-free" means a technology that generates electricity without emitting carbon  
176.28       dioxide.

176.29       (e) "Area of concern for environmental justice" means an area in Minnesota that meets  
176.30       one or more of the following conditions:

176.31       (1) 50 percent or more of the population is nonwhite, based on the most recent data  
176.32       published by the United States Census Bureau;

177.1        (2) 40 percent or more of the households have an income at or below 185 percent of the  
177.2        federal poverty level, based on the most recent data published by the United States Census  
177.3        Bureau; or

177.4        (3) is within Indian country, as defined in United State Code, title 18, section 1151.

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

177.6        Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, is amended by adding a subdivision  
177.7        to read:

177.8        Subd. 1a. **Exception; solid waste incinerators.** (a) An energy recovery facility used to  
177.9        capture the heat value of mixed municipal solid waste or refuse-derived fuel from mixed  
177.10        municipal solid waste as a primary fuel is not an eligible energy technology, as defined in  
177.11        subdivision 1, if:

177.12        (1) air pollutants emitted by the facility are deposited in an environmental justice area;  
177.13        and

177.14        (2) the facility has a permitted maximum capacity of 1,000 tons per day or more.

177.15        (b) For the purposes of this subdivision, "environmental justice area" has the meaning  
177.16        given to area of concern for environmental justice under subdivision 1, paragraph (e).

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

177.18        Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

177.19        **Subd. 2a. **Eligible energy technology standard.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph**  
177.20        ~~(b)~~, Each electric utility shall generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by an  
177.21        eligible energy technology to provide its retail customers in Minnesota, or the retail customers  
177.22        of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale electric service, so  
177.23        that at least the following standard percentages of the electric utility's total retail electric  
177.24        sales to retail customers in Minnesota are generated by eligible energy technologies by the  
177.25        end of the year indicated:

177.26        (1)        2012        12 percent  
177.27        (2)        2016        17 percent  
177.28        (3)        2020        20 percent  
177.29        (4)        2025        25 ~~40~~ percent.  
177.30        (5)        2035        55 percent.

178.1 (b) An electric utility that owned a nuclear generating facility as of January 1, 2007,  
178.2 must meet the requirements of this paragraph rather than paragraph (a). An electric utility  
178.3 subject to this paragraph must generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by an  
178.4 eligible energy technology to provide its retail customers in Minnesota or the retail customer  
178.5 of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale electric service so  
178.6 that at least the following percentages of the electric utility's total retail electric sales to  
178.7 retail customers in Minnesota are generated by eligible energy technologies by the end of  
178.8 the year indicated:

178.9 (1) 2010 15 percent  
178.10 (2) 2012 18 percent  
178.11 (3) 2016 25 percent  
178.12 (4) 2020 30 percent.

178.13 Of the 30 percent in 2020, at least 25 percent must be generated by solar energy or wind  
178.14 energy conversion systems and the remaining five percent by other eligible energy  
178.15 technology. Of the 25 percent that must be generated by wind or solar, no more than one  
178.16 percent may be solar generated and the remaining 24 percent or greater must be wind  
178.17 generated.

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

178.19 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2b, is amended to read:

178.20 Subd. 2b. **Modification or delay of standard.** (a) The commission shall modify or delay  
178.21 the implementation of a standard obligation under subdivision 2a, 2f, or 2g, in whole or in  
178.22 part, if the commission determines it is in the public interest to do so. The commission,  
178.23 when requested to modify or delay implementation of a standard, must consider:

178.24 (1) the impact of implementing the standard on its customers' utility costs, including the  
178.25 economic and competitive pressure on the utility's customers;

178.26 (2) the environmental costs that would be incurred as a result of a delay or modification,  
178.27 based on the full range of environmental cost values established in section 216B.2422,  
178.28 subdivision 3;

178.29 (2) (3) the effects of implementing the standard on the reliability of the electric system;

178.30 (3) (4) technical advances or technical concerns;

178.31 (4) (5) delays in acquiring sites or routes due to rejection or delays of necessary siting  
178.32 or other permitting approvals;

179.1        ~~(5)~~ (6) delays, cancellations, or nondelivery of necessary equipment for construction or  
179.2        commercial operation of an eligible energy technology facility;

179.3        ~~(6)~~ (7) transmission constraints preventing delivery of service; and

179.4        ~~(7)~~ (8) other statutory obligations imposed on the commission or a utility; and

179.5        (9) impacts on areas of concern for environmental justice.

179.6        The commission may modify or delay implementation of a standard obligation under  
179.7        clauses (1) to ~~(3)~~ (4) only if it finds implementation would cause significant rate impact,  
179.8        requires significant measures to address reliability, or raises significant technical issues.

179.9        The commission may modify or delay implementation of a standard obligation under clauses  
179.10      ~~(4)~~ (5) to ~~(6)~~ (7) only if it finds that the circumstances described in those clauses were due  
179.11      to circumstances beyond an electric utility's control and make compliance not feasible.

179.12        (b) When evaluating transmission capacity constraints under paragraph (a), clause (7),  
179.13        the commission must consider whether the utility has:

179.14        (1) undertaken reasonable measures under the utility's control and consistent with the  
179.15        utility's obligations under local, state, and federal laws and regulations, and the utility's  
179.16        obligations as a member of a regional transmission organization or independent system  
179.17        operator, to acquire sites, necessary permit approvals, and necessary equipment to develop  
179.18        and construct new transmission lines or upgrade existing transmission lines to transmit  
179.19        electricity generated by eligible energy technologies; and

179.20        (2) taken all reasonable operational measures to maximize cost-effective electricity  
179.21        delivery from eligible energy technologies in advance of transmission availability.

179.22        ~~(b)~~ (c) When considering whether to delay or modify implementation of a standard  
179.23        obligation, the commission must give due consideration to a preference for electric generation  
179.24        through use of eligible energy technology and to the achievement of the standards set by  
179.25        this section.

179.26        ~~(e)~~ (d) An electric utility requesting a modification or delay in the implementation of a  
179.27        standard must file a plan to comply with its standard obligation in the same proceeding that  
179.28        in which it is requesting requests the delay.

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

179.30        Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2d, is amended to read:

179.31        Subd. 2d. **Commission order.** The commission shall issue necessary orders detailing  
179.32        the criteria and standards ~~by which it will~~ used to measure an electric utility's efforts to meet

180.1 the renewable energy ~~objectives of subdivision 2~~ standards under subdivisions 2a, 2f, and  
180.2 2g, and to determine whether the utility is ~~making the required good faith effort achieving~~  
180.3 the standards. In this order, the commission shall include criteria and standards that protect  
180.4 against undesirable impacts on the reliability of the utility's system and economic impacts  
180.5 on the utility's ratepayers and that consider technical feasibility.

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

180.7 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2e, is amended to read:

180.8 **Subd. 2e. Rate impact of standard compliance; report.** Each electric utility must  
180.9 submit to the commission and the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over  
180.10 energy policy a report containing an estimation of the rate impact of activities of the electric  
180.11 utility necessary to comply with this section. In consultation with the Department of  
180.12 Commerce, the commission shall determine a uniform reporting system to ensure that  
180.13 individual utility reports are consistent and comparable, and shall, by order, require each  
180.14 electric utility subject to this section to use that reporting system. The rate impact estimate  
180.15 must be for wholesale rates and, if the electric utility makes retail sales, the estimate shall  
180.16 also be for the impact on the electric utility's retail rates. Those activities include, without  
180.17 limitation, energy purchases, generation facility acquisition and construction, and  
180.18 transmission improvements. ~~An initial report must be submitted within 150 days of May~~  
180.19 ~~28, 2011. After the initial report,~~ A report must be updated and submitted as part of each  
180.20 integrated resource plan or plan modification filed by the electric utility under section  
180.21 216B.2422. The reporting obligation of an electric utility under this subdivision expires  
180.22 December 31, 2025, for an electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (a), and  
180.23 December 31, 2020, for an electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (b) 2040.

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

180.25 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f, is amended to read:

180.26 **Subd. 2f. Solar energy standard.** (a) In addition to the requirements of subdivisions 2a  
180.27 and ~~2b~~ 2g, each public utility shall generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by  
180.28 solar energy to serve its retail electricity customers in Minnesota so that by the end of 2020,  
180.29 at least 1.5 percent of the utility's total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota  
180.30 is generated by solar energy.

180.31 (b) For a public utility with more than 200,000 retail electric customers, at least ten  
180.32 percent of the 1.5 percent goal must be met by solar energy generated by or procured from  
180.33 solar photovoltaic devices with a nameplate capacity of 40 kilowatts or less.

181.1 (c) A public utility with between 50,000 and 200,000 retail electric customers:

181.2 (1) must meet at least ten percent of the 1.5 percent goal with solar energy generated by  
181.3 or procured from solar photovoltaic devices with a nameplate capacity of 40 kilowatts or  
181.4 less; and

181.5 (2) may apply toward the ten percent goal in clause (1) individual customer subscriptions  
181.6 of 40 kilowatts or less to a community solar garden program operated by the public utility  
181.7 that has been approved by the commission.

181.8 (d) The solar energy standard established in this subdivision is subject to all the provisions  
181.9 of this section governing a utility's standard obligation under subdivision 2a.

181.10 (e) It is an energy goal of the state of Minnesota that, by 2030, ten percent of the retail  
181.11 electric sales in Minnesota be generated by solar energy.

181.12 (f) For the purposes of calculating the total retail electric sales of a public utility under  
181.13 this subdivision, there shall be excluded retail electric sales to customers that are:

181.14 (1) an iron mining extraction and processing facility, including a scrap mining facility  
181.15 as defined in Minnesota Rules, part 6130.0100, subpart 16; or

181.16 (2) a paper mill, wood products manufacturer, sawmill, or oriented strand board  
181.17 manufacturer.

181.18 Those customers may not have included in the rates charged to them by the public utility  
181.19 any costs of satisfying the solar standard specified by this subdivision.

181.20 (g) A public utility may not use energy used to satisfy the solar energy standard under  
181.21 this subdivision to satisfy its standard obligation under subdivision 2a. A public utility may  
181.22 not use energy used to satisfy the standard obligation under subdivision 2a to satisfy the  
181.23 solar standard under this subdivision.

181.24 (h) Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a solar renewable energy credit associated  
181.25 with a solar photovoltaic device installed and generating electricity in Minnesota after  
181.26 August 1, 2013, but before 2020 may be used to meet the solar energy standard established  
181.27 under this subdivision.

181.28 (i) ~~Beginning July 1, 2014, and each July 1 through 2020, each public utility shall file  
181.29 a report with the commission reporting its progress in achieving the solar energy standard  
181.30 established under this subdivision.~~

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

182.1 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, is amended by adding a subdivision  
182.2 to read:

182.3 **Subd. 2g. Carbon-free standard.** In addition to the requirements under subdivisions  
182.4 2a and 2f, each electric utility must generate or procure sufficient electricity generated from  
182.5 a carbon-free energy technology to provide the utility's retail customers in Minnesota, or  
182.6 the retail customers of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale  
182.7 electric service, so that at least the following standard percentages of the electric utility's  
182.8 total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota are generated from carbon-free  
182.9 energy technologies by the end of the year indicated:

182.10 (1) 2025 65 percent  
182.11 (2) 2030 80 percent  
182.12 (3) 2035 90 percent  
182.13 (4) 2040 100 percent.

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

182.15 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

182.16 **Subd. 3. Utility plans filed with commission.** (a) Each electric utility shall report on  
182.17 its plans, activities, and progress with regard to the ~~objectives and standards of standard~~  
182.18 obligations under this section in its filings under section 216B.2422 or in a separate report  
182.19 submitted to the commission every two years, whichever is more frequent, demonstrating  
182.20 to the commission the utility's effort to comply with this section. In its resource plan or a  
182.21 separate report, each electric utility shall provide a description of:

182.22 (1) the status of the utility's renewable energy mix relative to the ~~objective and standards~~  
182.23 standard obligations;  
182.24 (2) efforts taken to meet the ~~objective and standards~~ standard obligations;  
182.25 (3) any obstacles encountered or anticipated in meeting the ~~objective or standards~~ and  
182.26 standard obligations;  
182.27 (4) potential solutions to the obstacles;

182.28 (5) the number of Minnesotans employed to construct facilities designed to meet the  
182.29 utility's standard obligations under this section;

182.30 (6) efforts taken to retain and retrain workers employed at electric generating facilities  
182.31 that the utility has ceased operating or designated to cease operating for new positions  
182.32 constructing or operating facilities to meet a utility's standard obligation;

183.1        (7) impacts of facilities designed to meet the utility's standard obligations under this  
183.2        section on areas of concern for environmental justice; and

183.3        (8) efforts to increase the diversity of both its workforce and vendors.

183.4        (b) The commissioner shall compile the information provided to the commission under  
183.5        paragraph (a), and report to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees  
183.6        with jurisdiction over energy and environment policy issues as to the progress of utilities  
183.7        in the state, including the progress of each individual electric utility, in increasing the amount  
183.8        of renewable energy provided to retail customers, with any recommendations for regulatory  
183.9        or legislative action, by January 15 of each odd-numbered year.

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

183.11        Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

183.12        **Subd. 4. Renewable energy credits.** (a) To facilitate compliance with this section, the  
183.13        commission, by rule or order, shall establish by January 1, 2008, a program for tradable  
183.14        renewable energy credits for electricity generated by eligible energy technology. The credits  
183.15        must represent energy produced by an eligible energy technology, as defined in subdivision  
183.16        1. Each kilowatt-hour of renewable energy credits must be treated the same as a kilowatt-hour  
183.17        of eligible energy technology generated or procured by an electric utility if it is produced  
183.18        by an eligible energy technology. The program must permit a credit to be used only once.  
183.19        The program must treat all eligible energy technology equally and shall not give more or  
183.20        less credit to energy based on the state where the energy was generated or the technology  
183.21        with which the energy was generated. The commission must determine the period in which  
183.22        the credits may be used for purposes of the program.

183.23        (b) In lieu of generating or procuring energy directly to satisfy the eligible energy  
183.24        technology objective or a standard of obligation under this section, an electric utility may  
183.25        utilize renewable energy credits allowed under the program to satisfy the objective or  
183.26        standard.

183.27        (c) The commission shall facilitate the trading of renewable energy credits between  
183.28        states.

183.29        (d) The commission shall require all electric utilities to participate in a  
183.30        commission-approved credit-tracking system or systems. Once a credit-tracking system is  
183.31        in operation, the commission shall issue an order establishing protocols for trading credits.

183.32        (e) An electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (b), may not sell renewable  
183.33        energy credits to an electric utility subject to subdivision 2a, paragraph (a), until 2021.

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

184.2        Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

184.3        Subd. 5. **Technology based on fuel combustion.** (a) Electricity produced by fuel  
184.4        combustion through fuel blending or co-firing under paragraph (b) may only count toward  
184.5        a utility's ~~objectives or standards~~ standard obligation if the generation facility:

184.6        (1) was constructed in compliance with new source performance standards promulgated  
184.7        under the federal Clean Air Act, United States Code, title 42, section 7401 et seq., for a  
184.8        generation facility of that type; or

184.9        (2) employs the maximum achievable or best available control technology available for  
184.10       a generation facility of that type.

184.11       (b) An eligible energy technology may blend or co-fire a fuel listed in subdivision 1,  
184.12       paragraph (a), clause (5), with other fuels in the generation facility, but only the percentage  
184.13       of electricity that is attributable to a fuel listed in that clause can be counted toward an  
184.14       electric utility's ~~renewable energy objectives~~ standard obligation.

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

184.16       Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

184.17       Subd. 7. **Compliance.** The commission must regularly investigate whether an electric  
184.18       utility is in compliance with its ~~good faith objective under subdivision 2 and standard~~  
184.19       obligation under ~~subdivision~~ subdivisions 2a, 2f, and 2g. If the commission finds  
184.20       noncompliance, it may order the electric utility to construct facilities, purchase energy  
184.21       generated by eligible energy technology, purchase renewable energy credits, or engage in  
184.22       other activities to achieve compliance. If an electric utility fails to comply with an order  
184.23       under this subdivision, the commission may impose a financial penalty on the electric utility  
184.24       in an amount not to exceed the estimated cost of the electric utility to achieve compliance.  
184.25       The penalty may not exceed the lesser of the cost of constructing facilities or purchasing  
184.26       credits. The commission must deposit financial penalties imposed under this subdivision  
184.27       in the energy and conservation account established in the special revenue fund under section  
184.28       216B.241, subdivision 2a. This subdivision is in addition to and does not limit any other  
184.29       authority of the commission to enforce this section.

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

185.1 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

185.2 Subd. 9. **Local benefits.** (a) The commission shall take all reasonable actions within its  
185.3 statutory authority to ensure this section is implemented ~~to maximize~~ in a manner that  
185.4 maximizes net benefits to all Minnesota citizens, balancing throughout the state, including  
185.5 but not limited to:

185.6 (1) the creation of high-quality jobs in Minnesota paying wages that support families;

185.7 (2) recognition of the rights of workers to organize and unionize;

185.8 (3) ensuring that workers have the necessary tools, opportunities, and economic assistance  
185.9 to adapt successfully during the energy transition, particularly in areas of concern for  
185.10 environmental justice;

185.11 (4) ensuring that all Minnesotans share the benefits of clean and renewable energy, and  
185.12 the opportunity to participate fully in the clean energy economy;

185.13 (5) ensuring that statewide air emissions are reduced, particularly in areas of concern  
185.14 for environmental justice; and

185.15 (6) the provision of affordable electric service to Minnesotans, particularly to low-income  
185.16 consumers.

185.17 (b) The commission must also implement this section in a manner that balances factors  
185.18 such as local ownership of or participation in energy production, development and ownership  
185.19 of eligible energy technology facilities by independent power producers, Minnesota utility  
185.20 ownership of eligible energy technology facilities, the costs of energy generation to satisfy  
185.21 the renewable standard and carbon-free standards, and the reliability of electric service to  
185.22 Minnesotans.

185.23 (c) When making investments to meet the requirements under this section, utilities are  
185.24 encouraged to locate new energy generating facilities in Minnesota communities where  
185.25 fossil-fuel generating plants have been retired or are scheduled for retirement.

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

185.27 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

185.28 Subd. 10. **Utility acquisition of resources.** A competitive resource acquisition process  
185.29 established by the commission prior to June 1, 2007, shall not apply to a utility for the  
185.30 construction, ownership, and operation of generation facilities used to satisfy the requirements  
185.31 of this section unless, upon a finding that it is in the public interest, the commission issues  
185.32 an order on or after June 1, 2007, that requires compliance by a utility with a competitive

186.1 resource acquisition process. A utility that owns a nuclear generation facility and intends  
186.2 to construct, own, or operate facilities under this section shall file with the commission ~~on~~  
186.3 ~~or before March 1, 2008, as part of the utility's filing under section 216B.2422~~ a renewable  
186.4 energy plan setting forth the manner in which the utility proposes to meet the requirements  
186.5 of this section. ~~The utility shall update the plan as necessary in its filing under section~~  
186.6 ~~216B.2422~~. The commission shall approve the plan unless it determines, after public hearing  
186.7 and comment, that the plan is not in the public interest. As part of its determination of public  
186.8 interest, the commission shall consider the plan's impact on balancing the state's interest in:

186.9 (1) promoting the policy of economic development in rural areas through the development  
186.10 of renewable energy projects, as expressed in subdivision 9;  
186.11 (2) maintaining the reliability of the state's electric power grid; and  
186.12 (3) minimizing cost impacts on ratepayers.

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

186.14 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

186.15 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the terms defined in this  
186.16 subdivision have the meanings given them.

186.17 (b) "Utility" means an entity with the capability of generating 100,000 kilowatts or more  
186.18 of electric power and serving, either directly or indirectly, the needs of 10,000 retail  
186.19 customers in Minnesota. Utility does not include federal power agencies.

186.20 (c) "Renewable energy" means electricity generated through use of any of the following  
186.21 resources:

186.22 (1) wind;

186.23 (2) solar;

186.24 (3) geothermal;

186.25 (4) hydro;

186.26 (5) trees or other vegetation;

186.27 (6) landfill gas; or

186.28 (7) predominantly organic components of wastewater effluent, sludge, or related  
186.29 by-products from publicly owned treatment works, but not including incineration of  
186.30 wastewater sludge.

187.1       (d) "Resource plan" means a set of resource options that a utility could use to meet the  
187.2 service needs of its customers over a forecast period, including an explanation of the supply  
187.3 and demand circumstances under which, and the extent to which, each resource option  
187.4 would be used to meet those service needs. These resource options include using,  
187.5 refurbishing, and constructing utility plant and equipment, buying power generated by other  
187.6 entities, controlling customer loads, and implementing customer energy conservation.

187.7       (e) "Refurbish" means to rebuild or substantially modify an existing electricity generating  
187.8 resource of 30 megawatts or greater.

187.9       (f) "Energy storage system" means a commercially available technology that:

187.10       (1) uses mechanical, chemical, or thermal processes to:

187.11       (i) store energy, ~~including energy generated from renewable resources and energy that~~  
187.12 ~~would otherwise be wasted~~, and deliver the stored energy for use at a later time; or

187.13       (ii) store thermal energy for direct use for heating or cooling at a later time in a manner  
187.14 that reduces the demand for electricity at the later time;

187.15       ~~(2) is composed of stationary equipment;~~

187.16       ~~(3) (2) if being used for electric grid benefits, is (i) operationally visible to the distribution~~  
187.17 ~~or transmission entity managing it, and (ii) capable of being controlled by the distribution~~  
187.18 ~~or transmission entity managing it, to enable and optimize the safe and reliable operation~~  
187.19 ~~of the electric system; and~~

187.20       ~~(4) (3) achieves any of the following:~~

187.21       (i) reduces peak or electrical demand;

187.22       (ii) defers the need or substitutes for an investment in electric generation, transmission,  
187.23 or distribution assets;

187.24       (iii) improves the reliable operation of the electrical transmission or distribution systems,  
187.25 ~~while ensuring transmission or distribution needs are not created; or and~~

187.26       (iv) ~~lowers customer costs produces a net ratepayer benefit~~ by storing energy when the  
187.27 cost of generating or purchasing ~~it~~ energy is low and delivering ~~it~~ energy to customers when  
187.28 the costs are high.

187.29       (g) Clean energy resource means:

187.30       (1) renewable energy, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph (c);

188.1        (2) an energy storage system storing energy generated by renewable energy or a  
188.2        carbon-free resource;

188.3        (3) energy efficiency, as defined in section 216B.241, subdivision 1;

188.4        (4) load management, as defined in section 216B.241, subdivision 1; or

188.5        (5) a carbon-free resource that the commission has determined is cost competitive under  
188.6        subdivision 4, paragraph (g).

188.7        (h) "Carbon-free resource" means a generation technology that, when operating, does  
188.8        not contribute to statewide greenhouse gas emissions, as defined in section 216H.01,  
188.9        subdivision 2.

188.10        (i) "Nonrenewable energy facility" means a generation facility that does not use a  
188.11        renewable energy or other clean energy resource. Nonrenewable facility does not include  
188.12        a nuclear facility.

188.13        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
188.14        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

188.15        Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

188.16        **Subd. 2. Resource plan filing and approval.** (a) A utility shall file a resource plan with  
188.17        the commission periodically in accordance with rules adopted by the commission. The  
188.18        commission shall approve, reject, or modify the plan of a public utility, as defined in section  
188.19        216B.02, subdivision 4, consistent with the public interest.

188.20        (b) In the resource plan proceedings of all other utilities, the commission's order shall  
188.21        be advisory and the order's findings and conclusions shall constitute prima facie evidence  
188.22        which may be rebutted by substantial evidence in all other proceedings. With respect to  
188.23        utilities other than those defined in section 216B.02, subdivision 4, the commission shall  
188.24        consider the filing requirements and decisions in any comparable proceedings in another  
188.25        jurisdiction.

188.26        (c) As a part of its resource plan filing, a utility shall include the least cost plan for  
188.27        meeting 50 and, 75, and 100 percent of all energy needs from both new and refurbished  
188.28        generating facilities through a combination of ~~conservation and renewable~~ clean energy ~~and~~  
188.29        carbon-free resources.

188.30        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
188.31        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

189.1 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, is amended by adding a subdivision  
189.2 to read:

189.3 Subd. 2d. Plan to minimize impacts to workers due to facility retirement. A utility  
189.4 required to file a resource plan under subdivision 2 that has scheduled the retirement of an  
189.5 electric generating facility located in Minnesota must include in the filing a narrative  
189.6 describing the utility's efforts, in conjunction with the utility's workers and the workers'  
189.7 designated representatives, to develop a plan to minimize the dislocations employees may  
189.8 suffer as a result of the facility's retirement. The narrative must address, at a minimum,  
189.9 plans to:

189.10 (1) minimize financial losses to workers;

189.11 (2) provide a transition timeline to ensure certainty for workers;

189.12 (3) protect pension benefits;

189.13 (4) extend or replace health insurance, life insurance, and other employment benefits;

189.14 (5) identify and maximize employment opportunities within the utility for dislocated  
189.15 workers, including providing incentives for the utility to retain as many workers as possible;

189.16 (6) provide training and skill development for workers who must or choose to leave the  
189.17 utility;

189.18 (7) create targeted transition plans for workers at all locations impacted by the facility  
189.19 retirement; and

189.20 (8) quantify any additional costs the utility would incur and specifying what costs, if  
189.21 any, the utility would request be recovered in the utility's rates as a result of efforts made  
189.22 under this subdivision to minimize impacts to workers.

189.23 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

189.24 **Subd. 3. Environmental costs.** (a) The commission shall, to the extent practicable using  
189.25 the best available scientific and economic information and data, quantify and establish a  
189.26 range of environmental costs associated with each method of electricity generation. The  
189.27 commission shall adopt and apply the interim cost of greenhouse gas emissions valuations  
189.28 presented in Technical Support Document: Social Cost of Carbon, Methane, and Nitrous  
189.29 Oxide Interim Estimates, released by the federal government in February 2021, adopting  
189.30 the 300-year time horizon and the full range of discount rates from 2.5 to five percent, with  
189.31 three percent as the central estimate, and shall update the parameters as necessary to conform

190.1 with updates released by the federal Interagency Working Group on the Social Cost of  
190.2 Greenhouse Gases or successors that are above the February 2021 interim valuations.

190.3 (b) When evaluating and selecting resource options in all proceedings before the  
190.4 commission, including but not limited to proceedings regarding power purchase agreements,  
190.5 resource plans, and certificates of need, a utility shall must use the values established by  
190.6 the commission in conjunction with other external factors, including socioeconomic costs,  
190.7 ~~when evaluating and selecting resource options in all proceedings before the commission,~~  
190.8 ~~including resource plan and certificate of need proceedings.~~ under this subdivision to quantify  
190.9 and monetize greenhouse gas and other emissions from the full lifecycle of fuels used for  
190.10 in-state or imported electricity generation, including extraction, processing, transport, and  
190.11 combustion.

190.12 (c) When evaluating resource options, the commission must include and consider the  
190.13 environmental cost values adopted under this subdivision. When considering the costs of a  
190.14 nonrenewable energy facility under this section, the commission must consider only nonzero  
190.15 values for the environmental costs analyzed under this subdivision, including both the low  
190.16 and high values of any cost range adopted by the commission.

190.17 ~~(b) The commission shall establish interim environmental cost values associated with~~  
190.18 ~~each method of electricity generation by March 1, 1994. These values expire on the date~~  
190.19 ~~the commission establishes environmental cost values under paragraph (a).~~

190.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
190.21 initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

190.22 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, is amended by adding a subdivision  
190.23 to read:

190.24 Subd. 3a. **Favored electric resources; state policy.** It is the policy of the state that: (1)  
190.25 in order to hasten the achievement of the greenhouse gas reduction goals under section  
190.26 216H.02, the renewable energy standard under section 216B.1691, subdivision 2a, and the  
190.27 solar energy standard under section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f; and (2) given the significant  
190.28 and continuing reductions in the cost of wind technologies, solar technologies, energy  
190.29 storage systems, demand-response technologies, and energy efficiency technologies and  
190.30 strategies, the favored method to meet electricity demand in Minnesota is a combination of  
190.31 clean energy resources.

190.32 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
190.33 initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

191.1 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

191.2 **Subd. 4. Preference for ~~renewable~~ clean energy facility resources.** (a) The commission  
191.3 shall not approve a new or refurbished nonrenewable energy facility in an integrated resource  
191.4 plan or a certificate of need, pursuant to section 216B.243, nor shall the commission approve  
191.5 a power purchase agreement or allow rate recovery pursuant to section 216B.16 for such a  
191.6 nonrenewable energy facility, unless the utility has demonstrated by clear and convincing  
191.7 evidence that a renewable energy facility, alone or in combination with other clean energy  
191.8 resources, is not in the public interest. When making the public interest determination, the  
191.9 commission must consider:

191.10 (1) ~~whether the resource plan helps the utility achieve the greenhouse gas reduction~~  
191.11 ~~goals under section 216H.02, the renewable energy standard under section 216B.1691, or~~  
191.12 ~~the solar energy standard under section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f;~~

191.13 (2) ~~impacts on local and regional grid reliability;~~

191.14 (3) ~~utility and ratepayer impacts resulting from the intermittent nature of renewable~~  
191.15 ~~energy facilities, including but not limited to the costs of purchasing wholesale electricity~~  
191.16 ~~in the market and the costs of providing ancillary services; and~~

191.17 (4) ~~utility and ratepayer impacts resulting from reduced exposure to fuel price volatility,~~  
191.18 ~~changes in transmission costs, portfolio diversification, and environmental compliance~~  
191.19 ~~costs.~~

191.20 (b) In order to determine that a renewable energy facility, alone or in combination with  
191.21 other clean energy resources, is not in the public interest, the commission must find by clear  
191.22 and convincing evidence that using renewable or clean energy resources to meet the need  
191.23 for resources is not affordable or reliable when compared with a nonrenewable energy  
191.24 facility or nonclean energy resource.

191.25 (c) When determining whether a renewable or clean energy resource is not affordable,  
191.26 the commission must consider utility and ratepayer effects resulting from:

191.27 (1) the intermittent nature of renewable energy facilities, including but not limited to  
191.28 the cost to purchase wholesale electricity in the market and the cost to provide ancillary  
191.29 services;

191.30 (2) reduced exposure to fuel price volatility, changes in transmission and distribution  
191.31 costs, portfolio diversification, and environmental compliance costs; and

191.32 (3) other environmental costs resulting from a nonrenewable energy facility, as determined  
191.33 by the commission under subdivision 3.

192.1 (d) When determining whether a renewable or clean energy resource is reliable, the  
192.2 commission must consider, to the extent reasonable, the ability of the resources or facilities  
192.3 of the utility and the regional electric grid to provide essential reliability services, including  
192.4 frequency response, balancing services, and voltage control.

192.5 (e) The commission must make a written determination describing the commission's  
192.6 findings and the reasoning behind the conclusions regarding whether a renewable or clean  
192.7 energy resource is affordable and reliable under this subdivision. When making the public  
192.8 interest determination under paragraph (a), the commission must also consider and make a  
192.9 written determination as to whether the energy resources approved by the commission:

192.10 (1) help the state achieve the greenhouse gas reduction goals under section 216H.02;

192.11 (2) help the utility achieve the renewable energy standard under section 216B.1691,

192.12 subdivision 2a, or the solar energy standard under section 216B.1691, subdivision 2f; and

192.13 (3) will result in any positive or harmful effects on the economy of northeastern

192.14 Minnesota, including but not limited to mining, logging, and the clean energy industry.

192.15 (f) Nothing in this section impacts a decision to continue operating a nuclear facility

192.16 that is generating energy in Minnesota as of June 1, 2020. If a decision is made to retire an

192.17 existing nuclear electric generating unit, paragraphs (a) to (e) govern the process to identify

192.18 replacement resources.

192.19 (g) The commission may, by order, add to the list of resources the commission determines

192.20 are clean energy resources for the purposes of this section upon finding that the resource is

192.21 carbon-free and cost competitive when compared with other carbon-free alternatives.

192.22 (h) If the commission approves a public utility's integrated resource plan that includes

192.23 the retirement of a facility that contributes to statewide greenhouse gas emissions, the public

192.24 utility is entitled to own at least a portion of the generation, transmission, and other facilities

192.25 necessary to replace the accredited capacity and energy of the retiring facility, as determined

192.26 by the commission, provided that:

192.27 (1) for a public utility with more than 200,000 retail electric customers in Minnesota,

192.28 the approved resource plan projects that the public utility's contribution to statewide

192.29 greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 80 percent or more, measured from 2005 to 2030;

192.30 (2) for a public utility with more than 100,000 but fewer than 200,000 retail electric

192.31 customers, the approved resource plan projects that the public utility's contribution to

192.32 statewide greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 80 percent or more, measured from

192.33 2005 to 2035;

193.1        (3) for a public utility with fewer than 100,000 retail electric customers in Minnesota,  
193.2        the approved resource plan projects that the public utility's contribution to statewide  
193.3        greenhouse gas emissions are reduced by 65 percent or more, measured from 2005 to 2030;  
193.4        and

193.5        (4) the commission determines that the public utility's ownership of clean energy and  
193.6        carbon-free resources that replace retired facilities is reasonable and in the public interest.

193.7        (i) Utility purchases or contracts to purchase capacity, energy, or ancillary services from  
193.8        an independent systems operator, an auction, or other market administered by an independent  
193.9        systems operator, and whose term is one year or less, are not subject to this subdivision.

193.10        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
193.11        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

193.12        Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, is amended by adding a subdivision  
193.13        to read:

193.14        **Subd. 4a. Preference for local job creation.** As part of a resource plan filing, a utility  
193.15        must report on associated local job impacts and the steps the utility and the utility's energy  
193.16        suppliers and contractors are taking to maximize the availability of construction employment  
193.17        opportunities for local workers. The commission must consider local job impacts and give  
193.18        preference to proposals that maximize the creation of construction employment opportunities  
193.19        for local workers, consistent with the public interest, when evaluating any utility proposal  
193.20        that involves the selection or construction of facilities used to generate or deliver energy to  
193.21        serve the utility's customers, including but not limited to an integrated resource plan, a  
193.22        certificate of need, a power purchase agreement, or commission approval of a new or  
193.23        refurbished electric generation facility. The commission must, to the maximum extent  
193.24        possible, prioritize the hiring of workers from communities hosting retiring electric generation  
193.25        facilities, including workers previously employed at those facilities.

193.26        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
193.27        initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

193.28        Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

193.29        **Subd. 5. Bidding; exemption from certificate of need proceeding.** (a) A utility may  
193.30        select resources to meet its projected energy demand through a bidding process approved  
193.31        or established by the commission. A utility shall use the environmental cost estimates

194.1   determined under subdivision 3 ~~in~~ and consider local job impacts when evaluating bids  
194.2   submitted in a process established under this subdivision.

194.3   (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, if an electric power generating  
194.4   plant, as described in section 216B.2421, subdivision 2, clause (1), is selected in a bidding  
194.5   process approved or established by the commission, a certificate of need proceeding under  
194.6   section 216B.243 is not required.

194.7   (c) A certificate of need proceeding is also not required for an electric power generating  
194.8   plant that has been selected in a bidding process approved or established by the commission,  
194.9   or such other selection process approved by the commission, to satisfy, in whole or in part,  
194.10   the wind power mandate of section 216B.2423 or the biomass mandate of section 216B.2424.

194.11   **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
194.12   initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

194.13   Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2422, is amended by adding a subdivision  
194.14   to read:

194.15   **Subd. 8. Transmission planning in advance of generation retirement.** A utility must  
194.16   identify in a resource plan each nonrenewable energy facility on the utility's system that  
194.17   has a depreciation term, probable service life, or operating license term that ends within 15  
194.18   years of the resource plan filing date. For each nonrenewable energy facility identified, the  
194.19   utility must include in the resource plan an initial plan to: (1) replace the nonrenewable  
194.20   energy facility; and (2) upgrade any transmission or other grid capabilities needed to support  
194.21   the retirement of that nonrenewable energy facility.

194.22   **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
194.23   initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

194.24   Sec. 32. **[216B.2427] NATURAL GAS UTILITY INNOVATION PLANS.**

194.25   **Subdivision 1. Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section and section 216B.2428,  
194.26   the following terms have the meanings given.

194.27   (b) "Biogas" means gas produced by the anaerobic digestion of biomass, gasification of  
194.28   biomass, or other effective conversion processes.

194.29   (c) "Carbon capture" means the capture of greenhouse gas emissions that would otherwise  
194.30   be released into the atmosphere.

195.1 (d) "Carbon-free resource" means an electricity generation facility whose operation does  
195.2 not contribute to statewide greenhouse gas emissions, as defined in section 216H.01,  
195.3 subdivision 2.

195.4 (e) "District energy" means a heating or cooling system that is solar thermal powered  
195.5 or that uses the constant temperature of the earth or underground aquifers as a thermal  
195.6 exchange medium to heat or cool multiple buildings connected through a piping network.

195.7 (f) "Energy efficiency" has the meaning given in section 216B.241, subdivision 1,  
195.8 paragraph (f), but does not include energy conservation investments that the commissioner  
195.9 determines could reasonably be included in a utility's conservation improvement program.

195.10 (g) "Greenhouse gas emissions" means emissions of carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous  
195.11 oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride emitted by  
195.12 anthropogenic sources within Minnesota and from the generation of electricity imported  
195.13 from outside the state and consumed in Minnesota, excluding carbon dioxide that is injected  
195.14 into geological formations to prevent its release to the atmosphere in compliance with  
195.15 applicable laws.

195.16 (h) "Innovative resource" means biogas, renewable natural gas, power-to-hydrogen,  
195.17 power-to-ammonia, carbon capture, strategic electrification, district energy, and energy  
195.18 efficiency.

195.19 (i) "Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions" means the aggregate greenhouse gas emissions  
195.20 resulting from the production, processing, transmission, and consumption of an energy  
195.21 resource.

195.22 (j) "Lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions intensity" means lifecycle greenhouse gas  
195.23 emissions per unit of energy.

195.24 (k) "Nonexempt customer" means a utility customer that has not been included in a  
195.25 utility's innovation plan under subdivision 3, paragraph (f).

195.26 (l) "Power-to-ammonia" means the production of ammonia from hydrogen produced  
195.27 via power-to-hydrogen using a process that has a lower lifecycle greenhouse gas intensity  
195.28 than does natural gas produced from conventional geologic sources.

195.29 (m) "Power-to-hydrogen" means the use of electricity generated by a carbon-free resource  
195.30 to produce hydrogen.

195.31 (n) "Renewable energy" has the meaning given in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1.

196.1       (o) "Renewable natural gas" means biogas that has been processed to be interchangeable  
196.2       with, and that has a lower lifecycle greenhouse gas intensity than, natural gas produced  
196.3       from conventional geologic sources.

196.4       (p) "Solar thermal" has the meaning given to qualifying solar thermal project in section  
196.5       216B.2411, subdivision 2, paragraph (d).

196.6       (q) "Strategic electrification" means the installation of electric end-use equipment in an  
196.7       existing building in which natural gas is a primary or back-up fuel source, or in a newly  
196.8       constructed building in which a customer receives natural gas service for one or more  
196.9       end-uses, provided that the electric end-use equipment:

196.10       (1) results in a net reduction in statewide greenhouse gas emissions, as defined in section  
196.11       216H.01, subdivision 2, over the life of the equipment when compared to the most efficient  
196.12       commercially available natural gas alternative; and

196.13       (2) is installed and operated in a manner that improves the load factor of the customer's  
196.14       electric utility.

196.15       Strategic electrification does not include investments that the commissioner determines  
196.16       could reasonably be included in the natural gas utility's conservation improvement program  
196.17       under section 216B.241.

196.18       (r) "Total incremental cost" means the calculation of the following components of a  
196.19       utility's innovation plan approved by the commission under subdivision 2:

196.20       (1) the sum of:

196.21       (i) return of and on capital investments for the production, processing, pipeline  
196.22       interconnection, storage, and distribution of innovative resources;

196.23       (ii) incremental operating costs associated with capital investments in infrastructure for  
196.24       the production, processing, pipeline interconnection, storage, and distribution of innovative  
196.25       resources;

196.26       (iii) incremental costs to procure innovative resources from third parties;

196.27       (iv) incremental costs to develop and administer programs; and

196.28       (v) incremental costs for research and development related to innovative resources;

196.29       (2) less the sum of:

196.30       (i) value received by the utility upon the resale of innovative resources or innovative  
196.31       resource by-products, including any environmental credits included with the resale of

197.1 renewable gaseous fuels or value received by the utility when innovative resources are used  
197.2 as vehicle fuel;

197.3 (ii) cost savings achieved through avoidance of purchases of natural gas produced from  
197.4 conventional geologic sources, including but not limited to avoided commodity purchases  
197.5 or avoided pipeline costs; and

197.6 (iii) other revenues received by the utility that are directly attributable to the utility's  
197.7 implementation of an innovation plan.

197.8 (s) "Utility" means a public utility, as defined in section 216B.02, subdivision 4, that  
197.9 provides natural gas sales or natural gas transportation services to customers in Minnesota.

197.10 **Subd. 2. Innovation plans.** (a) A natural gas utility may file an innovation plan with  
197.11 the commission. The utility's plan must include, as applicable, the following components:

197.12 (1) the innovative resource or resources the utility plans to implement to contribute to  
197.13 meeting the state's greenhouse gas and renewable energy goals, including those established  
197.14 in section 216C.05, subdivision 2, clause (3), and section 216H.02, subdivision 1, within  
197.15 the requirements and limitations set forth in this section;

197.16 (2) research and development investments related to innovative resources the utility  
197.17 plans to undertake;

197.18 (3) total lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions that the utility projects are reduced or avoided  
197.19 through implementing the plan;

197.20 (4) a comparison of the estimate in clause (3) to total emissions from natural gas use by  
197.21 utility customers in 2020;

197.22 (5) a description of each pilot program included in the plan that is related to the  
197.23 development or provision of innovative resources, and an estimate of the total incremental  
197.24 costs to implement each pilot program;

197.25 (6) the cost-effectiveness of innovative resources calculated from the perspective of the  
197.26 utility, society, the utility's nonparticipating customers, and the utility's participating  
197.27 customers compared to other innovative resources that could be deployed to reduce or avoid  
197.28 the same greenhouse gas emissions targeted for reduction by the utility's proposed innovative  
197.29 resource;

197.30 (7) for any pilot program not previously approved as part of the utility's most recent  
197.31 innovation plan, a third-party analysis of:

198.1        (i) the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions intensity of the proposed innovative resources;  
198.2        and

198.3        (ii) the forecasted lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reduced or avoided if the proposed  
198.4        pilot program is implemented;

198.5        (8) an explanation of the methodology used by the utility to calculate the lifecycle  
198.6        greenhouse gas emissions avoided or reduced by each pilot program included in the plan,  
198.7        including descriptions of how the utility's method deviated, if at all, from the carbon  
198.8        accounting frameworks established by the commission under section 216B.2428;

198.9        (9) a discussion of whether the plan supports the development and use of alternative  
198.10        agricultural products, waste reduction, reuse, or anaerobic digestion of organic waste, and  
198.11        the recovery of energy from wastewater, and, if it does, a description of the geographic  
198.12        areas of the state in which the benefits are realized;

198.13        (10) a description of third-party systems and processes the utility plans to use to:

198.14        (i) track the innovative resources included in the plan so that environmental benefits  
198.15        produced by the plan are not claimed for any other program; and

198.16        (ii) verify the environmental attributes and greenhouse gas emissions intensity of  
198.17        innovative resources included in the plan;

198.18        (11) projected local job impacts resulting from implementation of the plan and a  
198.19        description of steps the utility and the utility's energy suppliers and contractors are taking  
198.20        to maximize the availability of construction employment opportunities for local workers;

198.21        (12) a description of how the utility proposes to recover annual total incremental costs  
198.22        of the plan;

198.23        (13) steps the utility has taken or proposes to take to reduce the expected cost of the plan  
198.24        on low- and moderate-income residential customers and to ensure that low- and  
198.25        moderate-income residential customers benefit from innovative resources included in the  
198.26        plan;

198.27        (14) a report on the utility's progress toward implementing the utility's previously  
198.28        approved innovation plan, if applicable;

198.29        (15) a report of the utility's progress toward achieving the cost-effectiveness objectives  
198.30        established by the commission with respect to the utility's previously approved innovation  
198.31        plan, if applicable; and

199.1        (16) collections of pilot programs that the utility estimates would, if implemented, provide  
199.2        approximately 50 percent, 150 percent, and 200 percent of the greenhouse gas reduction or  
199.3        avoidance benefits of the utility's proposed plan.

199.4        (b) The commission must approve, modify, or reject a plan. The commission must not  
199.5        approve an innovation plan unless the commission finds:

199.6        (1) the size, scope, and scale of the plan produces net benefits under the cost-benefit  
199.7        framework established by the commission in section 216B.2428;

199.8        (2) the plan promotes the use of renewable energy resources and reduces or avoids  
199.9        greenhouse gas emissions at a cost level consistent with subdivision 3;

199.10        (3) the plan promotes local economic development;

199.11        (4) the innovative resources included in the plan have a lower lifecycle greenhouse gas  
199.12        intensity than natural gas produced from conventional geologic sources;

199.13        (5) the systems used to track and verify the environmental attributes of the innovative  
199.14        resources included in the plan are reasonable, considering available third-party tracking and  
199.15        verification systems;

199.16        (6) the costs and revenues projected under the plan are reasonable in comparison to other  
199.17        innovative resources the utility could deploy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, considering  
199.18        other benefits of the innovative resources included in the plan;

199.19        (7) the total amount of estimated greenhouse gas emissions reduction or avoidance to  
199.20        be achieved under the plan is reasonable considering the state's greenhouse gas and renewable  
199.21        energy goals, including those established in section 216C.05, subdivision 2, clause (3), and  
199.22        section 216H.02, subdivision 1; customer cost; and the total amount of greenhouse gas  
199.23        emissions reduction or avoidance achieved under the utility's previously approved plans, if  
199.24        applicable; and

199.25        (8) any renewable natural gas purchased by a utility under the plan that is produced from  
199.26        the anaerobic digestion of manure is certified as being produced at an agricultural livestock  
199.27        production facility that does not increase the number of animal units at the facility solely  
199.28        or primarily to produce renewable natural gas for the plan.

199.29        (c) In seeking to recover costs under a plan approved by the commission under this  
199.30        section, the utility must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commission that the actual  
199.31        total incremental costs incurred to implement the approved innovation plan are reasonable.  
199.32        Prudently incurred costs under an approved plan, including prudently incurred costs to

200.1 obtain the third-party analysis required in paragraph (a), clauses (6) and (7), are recoverable  
200.2 either:

200.3 (1) under section 216B.16, subdivision 7, clause (2), via the utility's purchased gas  
200.4 adjustment;

200.5 (2) in the utility's next general rate case; or

200.6 (3) via annual adjustments, provided that after notice and comment the commission  
200.7 determines that the costs included for recovery through rates are prudently incurred. Annual  
200.8 adjustments must include a rate of return, income taxes on the rate of return, incremental  
200.9 property taxes, incremental depreciation expense, and incremental operation and maintenance  
200.10 expenses. The rate of return must be at the level approved by the commission in the utility's  
200.11 last general rate case, unless the commission determines that a different rate of return is in  
200.12 the public interest.

200.13 (d) Upon approval of a utility's plan, the commission shall establish cost-effectiveness  
200.14 objectives for the plan based on the cost-benefit test for innovative resources developed  
200.15 under section 216B.2428. The cost-effectiveness objective for each plan must demonstrate  
200.16 incremental progress from the previously approved plan's cost-effectiveness objective.

200.17 (e) A utility operating under an approved plan must file annual reports to the commission  
200.18 on work completed under the plan, including:

200.19 (1) costs incurred;

200.20 (2) lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions or avoidance achieved;

200.21 (3) a description of the processes used to track and verify the innovative resources and  
200.22 to retire the associated environmental attributes;

200.23 (4) an assessment of the degree to which the lifecycle greenhouse gas accounting  
200.24 methodology is consistent with current science;

200.25 (5) the economic impact of the plan, including job creation;

200.26 (6) the utility's progress toward achieving the cost-effectiveness objectives established  
200.27 by the commission; and

200.28 (7) modifications to elements of the plan proposed by the utility.

200.29 (f) When evaluating a utility's annual report, the commission may:

200.30 (1) approve the continuation of a pilot program included in the plan, with or without  
200.31 modifications;

201.1 (2) require the utility to file a new or modified pilot program or plan; or

201.2 (3) disapprove the continuation of a pilot program or plan.

201.3 (g) An innovation plan has a term of five years. A subsequent innovation plan must be  
201.4 filed no later than four years after the previous plan was approved by the commission so  
201.5 that, if approved, the new plan takes effect immediately upon expiration of the previous  
201.6 plan.

201.7 (h) For purposes of this section and the commission's lifecycle carbon accounting  
201.8 framework and cost-benefit test for innovative resources under section 216B.2428, any  
201.9 required analysis of lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions reductions or avoidance, or lifecycle  
201.10 greenhouse gas intensity:

201.11 (1) must include but is not limited to estimates of:

201.12 (i) avoided or reduced greenhouse gas emissions attributable to utility operations;

201.13 (ii) avoided or reduced greenhouse gas emissions from the production, processing, and  
201.14 transmission of fuels prior to receipt by the utility; and

201.15 (iii) avoided or reduced greenhouse gas emissions at the point of end use;

201.16 (2) must not count any unit of greenhouse gas emissions avoidance or reduction more  
201.17 than once; and

201.18 (3) may, where direct measurement is not technically or economically feasible, rely on  
201.19 emissions factors, default values, or engineering estimates from a publicly accessible source  
201.20 accepted by a federal or state government agency, provided that the emissions factors,  
201.21 default values, or engineering estimates can be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the  
201.22 commission to produce a reasonable estimate of greenhouse gas emissions reductions,  
201.23 avoidance, or intensity.

201.24 (i) Strategic electrification implemented in a plan approved by the commission under  
201.25 this section is not eligible for a financial incentive under section 216B.241, subdivision 2c.  
201.26 Electric end-use equipment installed under a plan approved by the commission under this  
201.27 section is the exclusive property of the building owner.

201.28 Subd. 3. **Limitations on utility customer costs.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph  
201.29 (b), the first innovation plan submitted to the commission by a utility must not propose, and  
201.30 the commission must not approve, annual total incremental costs exceeding the lesser of:

201.31 (1) 1.75 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from natural gas service provided  
201.32 in Minnesota at the time of plan filing; or

202.1 (2) \$20 per nonexempt customer, based on the proposed annual total incremental costs  
202.2 for each year of the plan divided by the total number of nonexempt utility customers.

202.3 (b) The commission may approve additional annual costs up to the lesser of:

202.4 (1) an additional 0.25 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from service  
202.5 provided in Minnesota at the time of plan filing; or

202.6 (2) \$5 per nonexempt customer, based on the proposed annual total incremental costs  
202.7 for each year of the plan divided by the total number of nonexempt utility customers of  
202.8 incremental costs, provided that the additional costs under this paragraph are associated  
202.9 exclusively with the purchase of renewable natural gas produced from:

202.10 (i) food waste diverted from a landfill;

202.11 (ii) a municipal wastewater treatment system; or

202.12 (iii) an organic mixture that includes at least 15 percent, by volume, sustainably harvested  
202.13 native prairie grasses or locally appropriate cover crops, as determined by a local soil and  
202.14 water conservation district or the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources  
202.15 Conservation Service.

202.16 (c) If the commission determines that the utility has successfully achieved the  
202.17 cost-effectiveness objectives established in the utility's most recently approved innovation  
202.18 plan, except as provided in paragraph (d), the next subsequent plan filed by the utility under  
202.19 this section is subject to the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b), except that:

202.20 (1) the cap on total incremental costs in paragraph (a) with respect to the second plan is  
202.21 the lesser of:

202.22 (i) 2.75 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from natural gas service in  
202.23 Minnesota at the time of the plan's filing; or

202.24 (ii) \$35 per nonexempt customer; and

202.25 (2) the cap on additional costs in paragraph (b) is the lesser of:

202.26 (i) an additional 0.75 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from natural gas  
202.27 service in Minnesota at the time of the plan's filing; or

202.28 (ii) \$10 per nonexempt customer.

202.29 (d) If the commission determines that the utility has successfully achieved the  
202.30 cost-effectiveness objectives established in two of the same utility's previously approved

203.1 innovation plans, all subsequent plans filed by the utility under this section are subject to  
203.2 the provisions of paragraphs (a) and (b), except that:

203.3 (1) the cap on total incremental costs in paragraph (a) with respect to the third or  
203.4 subsequent plan is the lesser of:

203.5 (i) four percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from natural gas service in  
203.6 Minnesota at the time of the plan's filing; or

203.7 (ii) \$50 per nonexempt customer; and

203.8 (2) the cap on additional costs in paragraph (b) is the lesser of:

203.9 (i) an additional 1.5 percent of the utility's gross operating revenues from natural gas  
203.10 service in Minnesota at the time of the plan's filing; or

203.11 (ii) \$20 per nonexempt customer.

203.12 (e) For purposes of paragraphs (a) to (d), the limits on annual total incremental costs  
203.13 must be calculated at the time the innovation plan is filed as the average of the utility's  
203.14 forecasted total incremental costs over the five-year term of the plan.

203.15 (f) A large customer facility that the commissioner of commerce has exempted from a  
203.16 utility's conservation improvement program under section 216B.241, subdivision 1a,  
203.17 paragraph (b), is exempt from the utility's innovation plan offerings and must not be charged  
203.18 any costs incurred to implement an approved innovation plan unless the large customer  
203.19 facility files a request with the commissioner to be included in a utility's innovation plan.  
203.20 The commission may prohibit large customer facilities exempt from innovation plan costs  
203.21 from participating in innovation plans.

203.22 (g) A utility filing an innovation plan may include annual spending and investments on  
203.23 research and development of up to ten percent of the proposed total incremental costs related  
203.24 to innovative plans, subject to the limitations in paragraphs (a) to (e).

203.25 (h) For purposes of this subdivision, gross operating revenues do not include revenues  
203.26 from large customer facilities exempt from innovation plan costs.

203.27 Subd. 4. Innovative resources procured outside of an innovation plan. (a) Without  
203.28 filings an innovation plan, a natural gas utility may propose and the commission may approve  
203.29 cost recovery for:

203.30 (1) innovative resources acquired to satisfy a commission-approved green tariff program  
203.31 that allows customers to choose to meet a portion of the customers' energy needs through  
203.32 innovative resources; or

204.1        (2) utility expenditures for innovative resources procured at a cost that is within five  
204.2        percent of the average of Ventura and Demarc index prices for natural gas produced from  
204.3        conventional geologic sources at the time of the transaction per unit of natural gas that the  
204.4        innovative resource displaces.

204.5        (b) An approved green tariff program must include provisions to ensure that reasonable  
204.6        systems are used to track and verify the environmental attributes of innovative resources  
204.7        included in the program, taking into account any available third-party tracking or verification  
204.8        systems.

204.9        (c) For the purposes of this subdivision, "Ventura and Demarc index prices" means the  
204.10        daily index price of wholesale natural gas sold at the Northern Natural Gas Company's  
204.11        Ventura trading hub in Hancock County, Iowa, and its demarcation point in Clifton, Kansas.

204.12        Subd. 5. **Power-to-ammonia.** When determining whether to approve a power-to-ammonia  
204.13        pilot program as part of an innovative plan, the commission must consider:

204.14        (1) the risk of exposing any person to unhealthy concentrations of ammonia;  
204.15        (2) the risk that any home or business might be affected by ammonia odors;  
204.16        (3) whether the greenhouse gas emissions addressed by the proposed power-to-ammonia  
204.17        project could be more efficiently addressed using power-to-hydrogen; and  
204.18        (4) whether the power-to-ammonia project achieves lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions  
204.19        reductions in the agricultural sector more effectively than power-to-hydrogen.

204.20        Subd. 6. **Thermal energy audits.** The first innovation plan filed under this section by  
204.21        a utility with more than 800,000 customers must include a pilot program to provide thermal  
204.22        energy audits to small- and medium-sized business in order to identify opportunities to  
204.23        reduce or avoid greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas use. The pilot program must  
204.24        provide incentives for businesses to implement recommendations made by the audit. The  
204.25        utility must develop criteria to identify businesses that achieve significant emissions  
204.26        reductions by implementing audit recommendations and must recognize the businesses as  
204.27        thermal energy leaders.

204.28        Subd. 7. **Innovative resources for certain industrial processes.** The first innovation  
204.29        plan filed under this section by a utility with more than 800,000 customers must include a  
204.30        pilot program to provide innovative resources to industrial facilities whose manufacturing  
204.31        processes, for technical reasons, are not amenable to electrification. A large customer facility  
204.32        exempt from innovation plan offerings under subdivision 3, paragraph (f), is not eligible to  
204.33        participate in the pilot program under this subdivision.

205.1        **Subd. 8. Electric cold climate air-source heat pumps.** (a) The first innovation plan  
205.2        filed under this section by a utility with more than 800,000 customers must include a pilot  
205.3        program that facilitates deep energy retrofits and the installation of cold climate electric  
205.4        air-source heat pumps in existing residential homes that have natural gas heating systems.

205.5        (b) For purposes of this subdivision, "deep energy retrofit" means the installation of any  
205.6        measure or combination of measures, including air sealing and addressing thermal bridges,  
205.7        that under normal weather and operating conditions can reasonably be expected to reduce  
205.8        a building's calculated design load to ten or fewer British Thermal Units per hour per square  
205.9        foot of conditioned floor area. Deep energy retrofit does not include the installation of  
205.10        photovoltaic electric generation equipment, but may include the installation of a qualifying  
205.11        solar thermal energy project.

205.12        **Subd. 9. District energy.** The first innovation plan filed under this section by a utility  
205.13        with more than 800,000 customers must include a pilot program to facilitate the development,  
205.14        expansion, or modification of district energy systems in Minnesota. This subdivision does  
205.15        not require the utility to propose, construct, maintain, or own district energy infrastructure.

205.16        **Subd. 10. Throughput goal.** It is the goal of the state of Minnesota that through the  
205.17        Natural Gas Innovation Act and Conservation Improvement Program, utilities reduce the  
205.18        overall amount of natural gas produced from conventional geologic sources delivered to  
205.19        customers.

205.20        **Subd. 11. Utility system report and forecasts.** (a) A public utility filing an innovation  
205.21        plan shall concurrently submit a report to the commission containing the following  
205.22        information:

205.23        (1) methane gas emissions attributed to venting or leakage across the utility's system,  
205.24        including emissions information reported to the Environmental Protection Agency and gas  
205.25        leaks considered to be hazardous or nonhazardous, and a narrative description of the utility's  
205.26        expectations regarding the cost and performance of the utility's leakage reduction programs  
205.27        over the next five years;

205.28        (2) total system greenhouse gas emissions and greenhouse gas emissions projected to  
205.29        be reduced or avoided through innovative resource investments and energy conservation  
205.30        investments, and a narrative description of the costs required to achieve the reductions over  
205.31        the next five years through investments in innovative resources and energy conservation;

205.32        (3) the quantity of pipe in service in the utility's natural gas network in Minnesota, by  
205.33        material, size, coating, operating pressure, and decade of installation, based on utility  
205.34        information reported to the United States Department of Transportation;

206.1        (4) a narrative description of other significant equipment owned and operated by the  
206.2        utility through which gas is transported or stored, including regulator stations and storage  
206.3        facilities, a discussion of the function of the equipment, how the equipment is maintained,  
206.4        and utility efforts to prevent leaks from the equipment;

206.5        (5) a five-year forecast of fuel prices and anticipated purchases including, as available,  
206.6        natural gas produced from conventional geologic sources, renewable natural gas, and  
206.7        alternative fuels;

206.8        (6) a five-year forecast of potential capital investments by the utility in existing  
206.9        infrastructure and new infrastructure for natural gas produced from conventional geologic  
206.10        sources and for innovative resources; and

206.11        (7) an inventory of the utility's current financial incentive programs for natural gas,  
206.12        including rebates and incentives offered for new and existing buildings and a description  
206.13        of the utility's projected changes in incentives the utility is likely to implement over the next  
206.14        five years.

206.15        (b) Information filed under this subdivision is intended to be used by the commission  
206.16        to evaluate a utility's innovation plan in the context of the utility's other planned investments  
206.17        and activities with respect to natural gas produced from conventional geologic sources.  
206.18        Information filed under this subdivision must not be used by the commission to set or limit  
206.19        utility rate recovery.

206.20        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 1, 2022.

206.21        Sec. 33. **[216B.2428] LIFECYCLE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS**

206.22        **ACCOUNTING FRAMEWORK; COST-BENEFIT TEST FOR INNOVATIVE**  
206.23        **RESOURCES.**

206.24        By June 1, 2022, the commission shall, by order, issue frameworks the commission must  
206.25        use to calculate lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions intensities of each innovative resource,  
206.26        as follows:

206.27        (1) a general framework to compare the lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions intensities  
206.28        of power-to-hydrogen, strategic electrification, renewable natural gas, district energy, energy  
206.29        efficiency, biogas, carbon capture, and power-to-ammonia; and

206.30        (2) a cost-benefit analytic framework to be applied to innovative resources and innovation  
206.31        plans filed under section 216B.2427 that the commission must use to compare the  
206.32        cost-effectiveness of those resources and plans. This analytic framework must take into  
206.33        account:

207.1        (i) the total incremental cost of the plan or resource and the lifecycle greenhouse gas  
207.2        emissions avoided or reduced by the innovative resource or plan, using the framework  
207.3        developed under clause (1);

207.4        (ii) additional economic costs and benefits, programmatic costs and benefits, additional  
207.5        environmental costs and benefits, and other costs or benefits that may be expected under a  
207.6        plan; and

207.7        (iii) baseline cost-effectiveness criteria against which an innovation plan should be  
207.8        compared. When establishing baseline criteria, the commission must take into account  
207.9        options available to reduce lifecycle greenhouse gas emissions from natural gas end uses  
207.10        and the goals in section 216C.05, subdivision 2, clause (3), and section 216H.02, subdivision  
207.11        1. To the maximum reasonable extent, the cost-benefit framework must be consistent with  
207.12        environmental cost values established under section 216B.2422, subdivision 3, and other  
207.13        calculations of the social value of greenhouse gas emissions reductions used by the  
207.14        commission. The commission may update frameworks established under this section as  
207.15        necessary.

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

207.17        Sec. 34. **[216B.247] BENEFICIAL BUILDING ELECTRIFICATION.**

207.18        (a) It is the goal of the state of Minnesota to promote energy end uses powered by  
207.19        electricity in the building sector that result in a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions  
207.20        and improvements to public health, consistent with the goal established under section  
207.21        216H.02, subdivision 1.

207.22        (b) To the maximum reasonable extent, the implementation of beneficial electrification  
207.23        in the building sector should prioritize investment and activity in low-income and  
207.24        under-resourced communities, maintain or improve the quality of electricity service,  
207.25        maximize customer savings, improve the integration of renewable and carbon-free resources,  
207.26        and prioritize job creation.

207.27        Sec. 35. **[216B.248] PUBLIC UTILITY BENEFICIAL BUILDING  
207.28        ELECTRIFICATION.**

207.29        (a) A public utility may submit to the commission a plan to promote energy end uses  
207.30        powered by electricity within the public utility's service area in residential and commercial  
207.31        buildings. To the maximum reasonable extent, a plan must:

207.32        (1) maximize consumer savings over the lifetime of the investment;

208.1        (2) mitigate cost and avoid duplication with the utility's conservation improvement plan  
208.2        under section 216B.241;  
  
208.3        (3) maintain or enhance the reliability of electricity service;  
  
208.4        (4) quantify the acres of land needed for new generation, transmission, and distribution  
208.5        facilities to provide the additional electricity required under the plan;  
  
208.6        (5) maintain or enhance public health and safety when temperatures fall below 25 degrees  
208.7        below zero Fahrenheit;  
  
208.8        (6) support the integration of renewable and carbon-free resources;  
  
208.9        (7) encourage demand response and load shape management opportunities and the use  
208.10        of energy storage that reduce overall system costs;  
  
208.11        (8) prioritize electrification projects in economically disadvantaged communities;  
  
208.12        (9) consider cost protections for low- and moderate-income customers;  
  
208.13        (10) produce a net reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, based on the electricity  
208.14        generation portfolio of the public utility proposing the plan, or based on the electricity  
208.15        serving the end-use in the event that a public utility providing retail natural gas service  
208.16        proposes the plan, either over the lifetime of the conversion or by 2050, whichever is sooner;  
208.17        and  
  
208.18        (11) consider local job impacts and give preference to proposals that maximize the  
208.19        creation of construction employment opportunities for local workers.  
  
208.20        (b) The commission must approve, reject, or modify the public utility's plan, consistent  
208.21        with the public interest. Plans approved by the commission under this subdivision are eligible  
208.22        for cost recovery under section 216B.1645.

208.23        **Sec. 36. [216B.491] DEFINITIONS.**

208.24        Subdivision 1. Scope. For the purposes of sections 216B.491 to 216B.4991, the terms  
208.25        defined in this subdivision have the meanings given.  
  
208.26        Subd. 2. Ancillary agreement. "Ancillary agreement" means any bond, insurance policy,  
208.27        letter of credit, reserve account, surety bond, interest rate lock or swap arrangement, liquidity  
208.28        or credit support arrangement, or other financial arrangement entered into in connection  
208.29        with energy transition bonds that is designed to promote the credit quality and marketability  
208.30        of energy transition bonds or to mitigate the risk of an increase in interest rates.

209.1        Subd. 3. **Assignee.** "Assignee" means any person to which an interest in energy transition  
209.2        property is sold, assigned, transferred, or conveyed, other than as security, and any successor  
209.3        to or subsequent assignee of the person.

209.4        Subd. 4. **Bondholder.** "Bondholder" means any holder or owner of energy transition  
209.5        bonds.

209.6        Subd. 5. **Clean energy resource.** "Clean energy resource" means:  
209.7        (1) renewable energy, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1;  
209.8        (2) an energy storage system; or  
209.9        (3) energy efficiency and load management, as defined in section 216B.241, subdivision  
209.10        1.

209.11        Subd. 6. **Customer.** "Customer" means a person who takes electric service from an  
209.12        electric utility for consumption of electricity in Minnesota.

209.13        Subd. 7. **Electric generating facility.** "Electric generating facility" means a facility that  
209.14        generates electricity, is owned in whole or in part by an electric utility, and is used to serve  
209.15        customers in Minnesota. Electric generating facility includes any interconnected infrastructure  
209.16        or facility used to transmit or deliver electricity to Minnesota customers.

209.17        Subd. 8. **Electric utility.** "Electric utility" means an electric utility providing electricity  
209.18        to Minnesota customers, including the electric utility's successors or assignees.

209.19        Subd. 9. **Energy storage system.** "Energy storage system" means a commercially  
209.20        available technology that uses mechanical, chemical, or thermal processes to:

209.21        (1) store energy and deliver the stored energy for use at a later time; or  
209.22        (2) store thermal energy for direct use for heating or cooling at a later time in a manner  
209.23        that reduces the demand for electricity at the later time.

209.24        Subd. 10. **Energy transition bonds.** "Energy transition bonds" means low-cost corporate  
209.25        securities, including but not limited to senior secured bonds, debentures, notes, certificates  
209.26        of participation, certificates of beneficial interest, certificates of ownership, or other evidences  
209.27        of indebtedness or ownership that have a scheduled maturity of no longer than 30 years and  
209.28        a final legal maturity date that is not later than 32 years from the issue date, that are rated  
209.29        AA or Aa2 or better by a major independent credit rating agency at the time of issuance,  
209.30        and that are issued by an electric utility or an assignee under a financing order.

209.31        Subd. 11. **Energy transition charge.** "Energy transition charge" means a charge that:

210.1        (1) is imposed on all customer bills by an electric utility that is the subject of a financing  
210.2        order, or the electric utility's successors or assignees;

210.3        (2) is separate from the utility's base rates; and

210.4        (3) provides a source of revenue solely to repay, finance, or refinance energy transition  
210.5        costs.

210.6        **Subd. 12. Energy transition costs.** "Energy transition costs" means:

210.7        (1) as approved by the commission in a financing order issued under section 216B.492,  
210.8        the pretax costs that the electric utility has incurred or will incur that are caused by, associated  
210.9        with, or remain as a result of retiring or replacing electric generating facilities serving  
210.10        Minnesota retail customers; and

210.11        (2) pretax costs that an electric utility has previously incurred related to the closure or  
210.12        replacement of electric infrastructure or facilities occurring before the effective date of this  
210.13        act.

210.14        Energy transition costs do not include any monetary penalty, fine, or forfeiture assessed  
210.15        against an electric utility by a government agency or court under a federal or state  
210.16        environmental statute, rule, or regulation.

210.17        **Subd. 13. Energy transition property.** "Energy transition property" means:

210.18        (1) all rights and interests of an electric utility or successor or assignee of an electric  
210.19        utility under a financing order for the right to impose, bill, collect, receive, and obtain  
210.20        periodic adjustments to energy transition charges authorized under a financing order issued  
210.21        by the commission; and

210.22        (2) all revenue, collections, claims, rights to payments, payments, money, or proceeds  
210.23        arising from the rights and interests specified in clause (1), regardless of whether any are  
210.24        commingled with other revenue, collections, rights to payment, payments, money, or  
210.25        proceeds.

210.26        **Subd. 14. Energy transition revenue.** "Energy transition revenue" means revenue,  
210.27        receipts, collections, payments, money, claims, or other proceeds arising from energy  
210.28        transition property.

210.29        **Subd. 15. Financing costs.** "Financing costs" means:

210.30        (1) principal, interest, and redemption premiums that are payable on energy transition  
210.31        bonds;

211.1        (2) payments required under an ancillary agreement and amounts required to fund or  
211.2        replenish a reserve account or other accounts established under the terms of any indenture,  
211.3        ancillary agreement, or other financing document pertaining to the bonds;

211.4        (3) other demonstrable costs related to issuing, supporting, repaying, refunding, and  
211.5        servicing the bonds, including but not limited to servicing fees, accounting and auditing  
211.6        fees, trustee fees, legal fees, consulting fees, financial advisor fees, administrative fees,  
211.7        placement and underwriting fees, capitalized interest, rating agency fees, stock exchange  
211.8        listing and compliance fees, security registration fees, filing fees, information technology  
211.9        programming costs, and any other demonstrable costs necessary to otherwise ensure and  
211.10        guarantee the timely payment of the bonds or other amounts or charges payable in connection  
211.11        with the bonds;

211.12        (4) taxes and license fees imposed on the revenue generated from collecting an energy  
211.13        transition charge;

211.14        (5) state and local taxes, including franchise, sales and use, and other taxes or similar  
211.15        charges, including but not limited to regulatory assessment fees, whether paid, payable, or  
211.16        accrued; and

211.17        (6) costs incurred by the commission to hire and compensate additional temporary staff  
211.18        needed to perform the commission's responsibilities under this section and, in accordance  
211.19        with section 216B.494, to engage specialized counsel and expert consultants experienced  
211.20        in securitized electric utility ratepayer-backed bond financing similar to energy transition  
211.21        bonds.

211.22        Subd. 16. **Financing order.** "Financing order" means an order issued by the commission  
211.23        under section 216B.492 that authorizes an applicant to (1) issue energy transition bonds in  
211.24        one or more series, (2) impose, charge, and collect energy transition charges, and (3) create  
211.25        energy transition property.

211.26        Subd. 17. **Financing party.** "Financing party" means a holder of energy transition bonds  
211.27        and a trustee, collateral agent, a party under an ancillary agreement, or any other person  
211.28        acting for the benefit of energy transition bondholders.

211.29        Subd. 18. **Nonbypassable.** "Nonbypassable" means that the payment of an energy  
211.30        transition charge required to repay bonds and related costs may not be avoided by any retail  
211.31        customer located within an electric utility service area.

211.32        Subd. 19. **Pretax costs.** "Pretax costs" means costs approved by the commission,  
211.33        including but not limited to:

212.1        (1) unrecovered capitalized costs of retired or replaced electric generating facilities;  
212.2        (2) costs to decommission and restore the site of an electric generating facility;  
212.3        (3) other applicable capital and operating costs, accrued carrying charges, deferred  
212.4        expenses, reductions for applicable insurance, and salvage proceeds; and  
212.5        (4) costs to retire any existing indebtedness, fees, costs, and expenses to modify existing  
212.6        debt agreements, or for waivers or consents related to existing debt agreements.

212.7        Subd. 20. **Successor.** "Successor" means a legal entity that succeeds by operation of law  
212.8        to the rights and obligations of another legal entity as a result of bankruptcy, reorganization,  
212.9        restructuring, other insolvency proceeding, merger, acquisition, consolidation, or sale or  
212.10        transfer of assets.

212.11        **Sec. 37. [216B.492] FINANCING ORDER.**

212.12        Subdivision 1. **Application.** (a) An electric utility that has received approval from the  
212.13        commission to retire an electric generating facility owned by the utility prior to the full  
212.14        depreciation of the electric generating facility's value may file an application with the  
212.15        commission for the issuance of a financing order to enable the utility to recover energy  
212.16        transition costs through the issuance of energy transition bonds under this section.

212.17        (b) The application must include all of the following information:

212.18        (1) a description of the electric generating facility to be retired;  
212.19        (2) the undepreciated value remaining in the electric generating facility that is proposed  
212.20        to be financed through the issuance of bonds under sections 216B.491 to 216B.499, and  
212.21        the method used to calculate the amount;

212.22        (3) the estimated savings to electric utility customers if the financing order is issued as  
212.23        requested in the application, calculated by comparing the costs to customers that are expected  
212.24        to result from implementing the financing order and the estimated costs associated with  
212.25        implementing traditional electric utility financing mechanisms with respect to the same  
212.26        undepreciated balance, expressed in net present value terms;

212.27        (4) an estimated schedule for the electric generating facility's retirement;  
212.28        (5) a description of the nonbypassable energy transition charge electric utility customers  
212.29        would be required to pay in order to fully recover financing costs, and the method and  
212.30        assumptions used to calculate the amount;

213.1        (6) a proposed methodology for allocating the revenue requirement for the energy  
213.2        transition charge among the utility's customer classes;

213.3        (7) a description of a proposed adjustment mechanism to be implemented when necessary  
213.4        to correct any overcollection or undercollection of energy transition charges, in order to  
213.5        complete payment of scheduled principal and interest on energy transition bonds and other  
213.6        financing costs in a timely fashion;

213.7        (8) a memorandum with supporting exhibits from a securities firm that is experienced  
213.8        in the marketing of bonds and that is approved by the commissioner of management and  
213.9        budget indicating the proposed issuance satisfies the current published AA or Aa2 or higher  
213.10        rating or equivalent rating criteria of at least one nationally recognized securities rating  
213.11        organization for issuances similar to the proposed energy transition bonds;

213.12        (9) an estimate of the timing of the issuance and the term of the energy transition bonds,  
213.13        or series of bonds, provided that the scheduled final maturity for each bond issuance does  
213.14        not exceed 30 years;

213.15        (10) identification of plans to sell, assign, transfer, or convey, other than as a security,  
213.16        interest in energy transition property, including identification of an assignee, and  
213.17        demonstration that the assignee is a financing entity wholly owned, directly or indirectly,  
213.18        by the electric utility;

213.19        (11) identification of ancillary agreements that may be necessary or appropriate;

213.20        (12) one or more alternative financing scenarios in addition to the preferred scenario  
213.21        contained in the application; and

213.22        (13) a workforce transition plan that includes estimates of:

213.23        (i) the number of workers currently employed at the electric generating facility to be  
213.24        retired by the electric utility and, separately reported, by contractors, including workers that  
213.25        directly deliver fuel to the electric generating facility;

213.26        (ii) the number of workers identified in item (i) who, as a result of the retirement of the  
213.27        electric generating facility:

213.28        (A) are offered employment by the electric utility in the same job classification;

213.29        (B) are offered employment by the electric utility in a different job classification;

213.30        (C) are not offered employment by the electric utility;

213.31        (D) are offered early retirement by the electric utility; and

214.1        (E) retire as planned; and  
214.2        (iii) if the electric utility plans to replace the retiring generating facility with a new  
214.3        electric generating facility owned by the electric utility, the number of jobs at the new  
214.4        generating facility outsourced to contractors or subcontractors; and  
214.5        (14) a plan to replace the retired electric generating facilities with other electric generating  
214.6        facilities owned by the utility or power purchase agreements that meet the requirements of  
214.7        subdivision 3, clause (15), and a schedule reflecting that the replacement resources are  
214.8        operational or available at the time the retiring electric generating facilities cease operation.

214.9        Subd. 2. **Findings.** After providing notice and holding a public hearing on an application  
214.10        filed under subdivision 1, the commission may issue a financing order if the commission  
214.11        finds that:

214.12        (1) the energy transition costs described in the application related to the retirement of  
214.13        electric generation facilities are reasonable;  
214.14        (2) the proposed issuance of energy transition bonds and the imposition and collection  
214.15        of energy transition charges:  
214.16        (i) are just and reasonable;  
214.17        (ii) are consistent with the public interest;  
214.18        (iii) constitute a prudent and reasonable mechanism to finance the energy transition costs  
214.19        described in the application; and  
214.20        (iv) provide tangible and quantifiable benefits to customers that are substantially greater  
214.21        than the benefits that would have been achieved absent the issuance of energy transition  
214.22        bonds; and

214.23        (3) the proposed structuring, marketing, and pricing of the energy transition bonds:  
214.24        (i) significantly lower overall costs to customers or significantly mitigate rate impacts  
214.25        to customers relative to traditional methods of financing; and  
214.26        (ii) achieve the maximum net present value of customer savings, as determined by the  
214.27        commission in a financing order, consistent with market conditions at the time of sale and  
214.28        the terms of the financing order.

214.29        Subd. 3. **Contents.** (a) A financing order issued under this section must:  
214.30        (1) determine the maximum amount of energy transition costs that may be financed from  
214.31        proceeds of energy transition bonds issued pursuant to the financing order;

215.1 (2) describe the proposed customer billing mechanism for energy transition charges and  
215.2 include a finding that the mechanism is just and reasonable;

215.3 (3) describe the financing costs that may be recovered through energy transition charges  
215.4 and the period over which the costs may be recovered, which must end no earlier than the  
215.5 date of final legal maturity of the energy transition bonds;

215.6 (4) describe the energy transition property that is created and that may be used to pay  
215.7 and secure the payment of the energy transition bonds and financing costs authorized in the  
215.8 financing order;

215.9 (5) authorize the electric utility to finance energy transition costs through the issuance  
215.10 of one or more series of energy transition bonds. An electric utility is not required to secure  
215.11 a separate financing order for each issuance of energy transition bonds or for each scheduled  
215.12 phase of the retirement or replacement of electric generating facilities approved in the  
215.13 financing order;

215.14 (6) include a formula-based mechanism that must be used to make expeditious periodic  
215.15 adjustments to the energy transition charge authorized by the financing order that are  
215.16 necessary to correct for any overcollection or undercollection, or to otherwise guarantee  
215.17 the timely payment of energy transition bonds, financing costs, and other required amounts  
215.18 and charges payable in connection with energy transition bonds;

215.19 (7) specify the degree of flexibility afforded to the electric utility in establishing the  
215.20 terms and conditions of the energy transition bonds, including but not limited to repayment  
215.21 schedules, expected interest rates, and other financing costs;

215.22 (8) specify that the energy transition bonds must be issued as soon as feasible following  
215.23 issuance of the financing order;

215.24 (9) require the electric utility, at the same time as energy transition charges are initially  
215.25 collected and independent of the schedule to close and decommission the electric generating  
215.26 facility, to remove the electric generating facility to be retired from the utility's rate base  
215.27 and commensurately reduce the utility's base rates;

215.28 (10) specify a future ratemaking process to reconcile any difference between the projected  
215.29 pretax costs included in the amount financed by energy transition bonds and the final actual  
215.30 pretax costs incurred by the electric utility to retire or replace the electric generating facility;

215.31 (11) specify information regarding bond issuance and repayments, financing costs,  
215.32 energy transaction charges, energy transition property, and related matters that the electric  
215.33 utility is required to provide to the commission on a schedule determined by the commission;

216.1        (12) allow and may require the creation of an electric utility's energy transition property  
216.2        to be conditioned on, and occur simultaneously with, the sale or other transfer of the energy  
216.3        transition property to an assignee and the pledge of the energy transition property to secure  
216.4        the energy transition bonds;

216.5        (13) ensure that the structuring, marketing, and pricing of energy transition bonds result  
216.6        in the lowest securitization bond charges and maximize net present value customer savings,  
216.7        consistent with market conditions and the terms of the financing order;

216.8        (14) specify that the electric utility is prohibited from, after the electric generating  
216.9        facilities subject to the finance order are removed from the electric utility's base rate:

216.10        (i) operating the electric generating facilities; or

216.11        (ii) selling the electric generating facilities to another entity to be operated as electric  
216.12        generating facilities; and

216.13        (15) specify that the electric utility must send a payment from energy transition bond  
216.14        proceeds equal to 15 percent of the net present value of electric utility cost savings estimated  
216.15        by the commission under subdivision 2, clause (3), item (ii), to the commissioner of  
216.16        employment and economic development for deposit in the energy worker transition account  
216.17        established in section 216B.4991, and that the balance of the proceeds:

216.18        (i) must not be used to acquire, construct, finance, own, operate, or purchase energy  
216.19        from an electric generating facility that is not powered by a clean energy resource; and

216.20        (ii) may be used to construct, finance, operate, own, or purchase energy from, an electric  
216.21        generating facility that complies with item (i), under conditions determined by the  
216.22        commission, including the capacity of generating assets, the estimated date the asset is  
216.23        placed into service, and any other factors deemed relevant by the commission, taking into  
216.24        account the electric utility's resource plan most recently approved by the commission under  
216.25        section 216B.2422.

216.26        (b) A financing order issued under this section may:

216.27        (1) include conditions different from those requested in the application that the  
216.28        commission determines are necessary to:

216.29        (i) promote the public interest; and

216.30        (ii) maximize the financial benefits or minimize the financial risks of the transaction to  
216.31        customers and to directly impacted Minnesota workers and communities; and

216.32        (2) specify the selection of one or more underwriters of the energy transition bonds.

217.1        Subd. 4. Duration; irrevocability; subsequent order. (a) A financing order remains  
217.2        in effect until the energy transition bonds issued under the financing order and all financing  
217.3        costs related to the bonds have been paid in full.

217.4        (b) A financing order remains in effect and unabated notwithstanding the bankruptcy,  
217.5        reorganization, or insolvency of the electric utility to which the financing order applies or  
217.6        any affiliate, successor, or assignee of the electric utility.

217.7        (c) Subject to judicial review as provided for in section 216B.52, a financing order is  
217.8        irrevocable and is not reviewable by future commissions. The commission may not reduce,  
217.9        impair, postpone, or terminate energy transition charges approved in a financing order, or  
217.10        impair energy transition property or the collection or recovery of energy transition revenue.

217.11        (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), the commission may, on the commission's own  
217.12        motion or at the request of an electric utility or any other person, commence a proceeding  
217.13        and issue a subsequent financing order that provides for refinancing, retiring, or refunding  
217.14        energy transition bonds issued under the original financing order if:

217.15        (1) the commission makes all of the findings specified in subdivision 2 with respect to  
217.16        the subsequent financing order; and

217.17        (2) the modification contained in the subsequent financing order does not in any way  
217.18        impair the covenants and terms of the energy transition bonds to be refinanced, retired, or  
217.19        refunded.

217.20        Subd. 5. Effect on commission jurisdiction. (a) Except as provided in paragraph (b),  
217.21        the commission, in exercising the powers and carrying out the duties under this section, is  
217.22        prohibited from:

217.23        (1) considering energy transition bonds issued under this section to be debt of the electric  
217.24        utility other than for income tax purposes, unless it is necessary to consider the energy  
217.25        transition bonds to be debt in order to achieve consistency with prevailing utility debt rating  
217.26        methodologies;

217.27        (2) considering the energy transition charges paid under the financing order to be revenue  
217.28        of the electric utility;

217.29        (3) considering the energy transition costs or financing costs specified in the financing  
217.30        order to be the regulated costs or assets of the electric utility; or

217.31        (4) determining any prudent action taken by an electric utility that is consistent with the  
217.32        financing order is unjust or unreasonable.

218.1        (b) Nothing in this subdivision:

218.2        (1) affects the authority of the commission to apply or modify any billing mechanism

218.3        designed to recover energy transition charges;

218.4        (2) prevents or precludes the commission from investigating an electric utility's

218.5        compliance with the terms and conditions of a financing order and requiring compliance

218.6        with the financing order; or

218.7        (3) prevents or precludes the commission from imposing regulatory sanctions against

218.8        an electric utility for failure to comply with the terms and conditions of a financing order

218.9        or the requirements of this section.

218.10        (c) The commission is prohibited from refusing to allow the recovery of any costs

218.11        associated with the retirement or replacement of electric generating facilities by an electric

218.12        utility solely because the electric utility has elected to finance those activities through a

218.13        financing mechanism other than energy transition bonds.

218.14        Sec. 38. **[216B.493] POST-ORDER COMMISSION DUTIES.**

218.15        Subdivision 1. Financing cost review. Within 120 days after the date energy transition

218.16        bonds are issued, an electric utility subject to a financing order must file with the commission

218.17        the actual initial and ongoing financing costs, the final structure and pricing of the energy

218.18        transition bonds, and the actual energy transition charge. The commission must review the

218.19        prudence of the electric utility's actions to determine whether the actual financing costs are

218.20        the lowest that could reasonably be achieved given the terms of the financing order and

218.21        market conditions prevailing at the time of the bond's issuance.

218.22        Subd. 2. Enforcement. If the commission determines that an electric utility's actions

218.23        under this section are not prudent or are inconsistent with the financing order, the commission

218.24        may apply any remedies available, provided that any remedy applied may not directly or

218.25        indirectly impair the security for the energy transition bonds.

218.26        Sec. 39. **[216B.494] USE OF OUTSIDE EXPERTS.**

218.27        (a) In carrying out the duties under this section, the commission may:

218.28        (1) contract with outside consultants and counsel experienced in securitized electric

218.29        utility customer-backed bond financing similar to energy transition bonds; and

218.30        (2) hire and compensate additional temporary staff as needed.

219.1 Expenses incurred by the commission under this paragraph must be treated as financing  
219.2 costs and included in the energy transition charge. The costs incurred under clause (1) are  
219.3 not an obligation of the state and are assigned solely to the transaction.

219.4 (b) If a utility's application for a financing order is denied or withdrawn for any reason  
219.5 and energy transition bonds are not issued, the commission's costs to retain expert consultants  
219.6 under this subdivision must be paid by the applicant utility and are deemed by the commission  
219.7 to be a prudent deferred expense eligible for recovery in the utility's future rates.

219.8 Sec. 40. **[216B.495] ENERGY TRANSITION CHARGE; BILLING TREATMENT.**

219.9 (a) An electric utility that obtains a financing order and causes energy transition bonds  
219.10 to be issued must:

219.11 (1) include on each customer's monthly electricity bill:

219.12 (i) a statement that a portion of the charges represents energy transition charges approved  
219.13 in a financing order;

219.14 (ii) the amount and rate of the energy transition charge as a separate line item titled  
219.15 "energy transition charge"; and

219.16 (iii) if energy transition property has been transferred to an assignee, a statement that  
219.17 the assignee is the owner of the rights to energy transition charges and that the electric utility  
219.18 or other entity, if applicable, is acting as a collection agent or servicer for the assignee; and

219.19 (2) file annually with the commission:

219.20 (i) a calculation of the impact that financing the retirement or replacement of electric  
219.21 generating facilities has had on customer electricity rates, by customer class; and

219.22 (ii) evidence demonstrating that energy transition revenues are applied solely to the  
219.23 repayment of energy transition bonds and other financing costs.

219.24 (b) Energy transition charges are nonbypassable and must be paid by all existing and  
219.25 future customers receiving service from the electric utility or the utility's successors or  
219.26 assignees under commission-approved rate schedules or special contracts.

219.27 (c) An electric utility's failure to comply with this section does not invalidate, impair,  
219.28 or affect any financing order, energy transition property, energy transition charge, or energy  
219.29 transition bonds, but does subject the electric utility to penalties under applicable commission  
219.30 rules.

220.1 **Sec. 41. [216B.496] ENERGY TRANSITION PROPERTY.**

220.2 Subdivision 1. General. (a) Energy transition property is an existing present property  
220.3 right or interest in a property right even though the imposition and collection of energy  
220.4 transition charges depends on the electric utility's collecting energy transition charges and  
220.5 on future electricity consumption. The property right or interest exists regardless of whether  
220.6 the revenues or proceeds arising from the energy transition property have been billed, have  
220.7 accrued, or have been collected.

220.8 (b) Energy transition property exists until all energy transition bonds issued under a  
220.9 financing order are paid in full and all financing costs and other costs of the energy transition  
220.10 bonds have been recovered in full.

220.11 (c) All or any portion of energy transition property described in a financing order issued  
220.12 to an electric utility may be transferred, sold, conveyed, or assigned to a successor or assignee  
220.13 that is wholly owned, directly or indirectly, by the electric utility and is created for the  
220.14 limited purpose of acquiring, owning, or administering energy transition property or issuing  
220.15 energy transition bonds as authorized by the financing order. All or any portion of energy  
220.16 transition property may be pledged to secure energy transition bonds issued under a financing  
220.17 order, amounts payable to financing parties and to counterparties under any ancillary  
220.18 agreements, and other financing costs. Each transfer, sale, conveyance, assignment, or  
220.19 pledge by an electric utility or an affiliate of an electric utility is a transaction in the ordinary  
220.20 course of business.

220.21 (d) If an electric utility defaults on any required payment of charges arising from energy  
220.22 transition property described in a financing order, a court, upon petition by an interested  
220.23 party and without limiting any other remedies available to the petitioner, must order the  
220.24 sequestration and payment of the revenues arising from the energy transition property to  
220.25 the financing parties.

220.26 (e) The interest of a transferee, purchaser, acquirer, assignee, or pledgee in energy  
220.27 transition property specified in a financing order issued to an electric utility, and in the  
220.28 revenue and collections arising from that property, is not subject to setoff, counterclaim,  
220.29 surcharge, or defense by the electric utility or any other person, or in connection with the  
220.30 reorganization, bankruptcy, or other insolvency of the electric utility or any other entity.

220.31 (f) A successor to an electric utility, whether resulting from a reorganization, bankruptcy,  
220.32 or other insolvency proceeding, merger or acquisition, sale, other business combination,  
220.33 transfer by operation of law, electric utility restructuring, or otherwise, must perform and  
220.34 satisfy all obligations of, and has the same duties and rights under, a financing order as the

221.1 electric utility to which the financing order applies, and must perform the duties and exercise  
221.2 the rights in the same manner and to the same extent as the electric utility, including  
221.3 collecting and paying to any person entitled to receive revenues, collections, payments, or  
221.4 proceeds of energy transition property.

221.5 Subd. 2. Security interests in energy transition property. (a) The creation, perfection,  
221.6 and enforcement of any security interest in energy transition property to secure the repayment  
221.7 of the principal and interest on energy transition bonds, amounts payable under any ancillary  
221.8 agreement, and other financing costs are governed solely by this section.

221.9 (b) A security interest in energy transition property is created, valid, and binding when:

221.10 (1) the financing order that describes the energy transition property is issued;

221.11 (2) a security agreement is executed and delivered; and

221.12 (3) value is received for the energy transition bonds.

221.13 (c) Once a security interest in energy transition property is created, the security interest  
221.14 attaches without any physical delivery of collateral or any other act. The lien of the security  
221.15 interest is valid, binding, and perfected against all parties having claims of any kind in tort,  
221.16 contract, or otherwise against the person granting the security interest, regardless of whether  
221.17 the parties have notice of the lien, upon the filing of a financing statement with the secretary  
221.18 of state.

221.19 (d) The description or indication of energy transition property in a transfer or security  
221.20 agreement and a financing statement is sufficient only if the description or indication refers  
221.21 to this section and the financing order creating the energy transition property.

221.22 (e) A security interest in energy transition property is a continuously perfected security  
221.23 interest and has priority over any other lien, created by operation of law or otherwise, which  
221.24 may subsequently attach to the energy transition property unless the holder of the security  
221.25 interest has agreed otherwise in writing.

221.26 (f) The priority of a security interest in energy transition property is not affected by the  
221.27 commingling of energy transition property or energy transition revenue with other money.  
221.28 An assignee, bondholder, or financing party has a perfected security interest in the amount  
221.29 of all energy transition property or energy transition revenue that is pledged to pay energy  
221.30 transition bonds, even if the energy transition property or energy transition revenue is  
221.31 deposited in a cash or deposit account of the electric utility in which the energy transition  
221.32 revenue is commingled with other money. Any other security interest that applies to the  
221.33 other money does not apply to the energy transition revenue.

222.1        (g) Neither a subsequent commission order amending a financing order under section  
222.2        216B.492, subdivision 4, nor application of an adjustment mechanism, authorized by a  
222.3        financing order under section 216B.492, subdivision 3, affects the validity, perfection, or  
222.4        priority of a security interest in or transfer of energy transition property.

222.5        (h) A valid and enforceable security interest in energy transition property is perfected  
222.6        only when it has attached and when a financing order has been filed with the secretary of  
222.7        state in accordance with procedures the secretary of state may establish. The financing order  
222.8        must name the pledgor of the energy transition property as debtor and identify the property.

222.9        Subd. 3. Sales of energy transition property. (a) A sale, assignment, or transfer of  
222.10        energy transition property is an absolute transfer and true sale of, and not a pledge of or  
222.11        secured transaction relating to, the seller's right, title, and interest in, to, and under the energy  
222.12        transition property if the documents governing the transaction expressly state that the  
222.13        transaction is a sale or other absolute transfer. A transfer of an interest in energy transition  
222.14        property may be created when:

222.15        (1) the financing order creating and describing the energy transition property is effective;  
222.16        (2) the documents evidencing the transfer of the energy transition property are executed  
222.17        and delivered to the assignee; and

222.18        (3) value is received.

222.19        (b) A transfer of an interest in energy transition property must be filed with the secretary  
222.20        of state against all third persons and perfected under sections 336.9-301 to 336.9-342,  
222.21        including any judicial lien or other lien creditors or any claims of the seller or creditors of  
222.22        the seller, other than creditors holding a prior security interest, ownership interest, or  
222.23        assignment in the energy transition property previously perfected under this subdivision or  
222.24        subdivision 2.

222.25        (c) The characterization of a sale, assignment, or transfer as an absolute transfer and  
222.26        true sale, and the corresponding characterization of the property interest of the assignee is  
222.27        not affected or impaired by:

222.28        (1) commingling of energy transition revenue with other money;

222.29        (2) the retention by the seller of:

222.30        (i) a partial or residual interest, including an equity interest, in the energy transition  
222.31        property, whether direct or indirect, or whether subordinate or otherwise; or

223.1        (ii) the right to recover costs associated with taxes, franchise fees, or license fees imposed  
223.2        on the collection of energy transition revenue;  
  
223.3        (3) any recourse that the purchaser may have against the seller;  
  
223.4        (4) any indemnification rights, obligations, or repurchase rights made or provided by  
223.5        the seller;  
  
223.6        (5) an obligation of the seller to collect energy transition revenues on behalf of an  
223.7        assignee;  
  
223.8        (6) the treatment of the sale, assignment, or transfer for tax, financial reporting, or other  
223.9        purposes;  
  
223.10       (7) any subsequent financing order amending a financing order under section 216B.492,  
223.11       subdivision 4, paragraph (d); or  
  
223.12       (8) any application of an adjustment mechanism under section 216B.492, subdivision  
223.13       3, paragraph (a), clause (6).

223.14       **Sec. 42. [216B.497] ENERGY TRANSITION BONDS.**

223.15       (a) Banks, trust companies, savings and loan associations, insurance companies, executors,  
223.16       administrators, guardians, trustees, and other fiduciaries may legally invest any money  
223.17       within the individual's or entity's control in energy transition bonds.

223.18       (b) Energy transition bonds issued under a financing order are not debt of or a pledge  
223.19       of the faith and credit or taxing power of the state, any agency of the state, or any political  
223.20       subdivision. Holders of energy transition bonds may not have taxes levied by the state or a  
223.21       political subdivision in order to pay the principal or interest on energy transition bonds. The  
223.22       issuance of energy transition bonds does not directly, indirectly, or contingently obligate  
223.23       the state or a political subdivision to levy any tax or make any appropriation to pay principal  
223.24       or interest on the energy transition bonds.

223.25       (c) The state pledges to and agrees with holders of energy transition bonds, any assignee,  
223.26       and any financing parties that the state must not:

223.27       (1) take or permit any action that impairs the value of energy transition property; or  
223.28       (2) reduce, alter, or impair energy transition charges that are imposed, collected, and  
223.29       remitted for the benefit of holders of energy transition bonds, any assignee, and any financing  
223.30       parties, until any principal, interest, and redemption premium payable on energy transition  
223.31       bonds, all financing costs, and all amounts to be paid to an assignee or financing party under  
223.32       an ancillary agreement are paid in full.

224.1 (d) A person who issues energy transition bonds may include the pledge specified in  
224.2 paragraph (c) in the energy transition bonds, ancillary agreements, and documentation  
224.3 related to the issuance and marketing of the energy transition bonds.

224.4 Sec. 43. **[216B.498] ASSIGNEE OF FINANCING PARTY NOT SUBJECT TO**  
224.5 **COMMISSION REGULATION.**

224.6 An assignee or financing party that is not already regulated by the commission does not  
224.7 become subject to commission regulation solely as a result of engaging in any transaction  
224.8 authorized by or described in sections 216B.491 to 216B.499.

224.9 Sec. 44. **[216B.499] EFFECT ON OTHER LAWS.**

224.10 (a) If any provision of sections 216B.491 to 216B.499 conflicts with any other law  
224.11 regarding the attachment, assignment, perfection, effect of perfection, or priority of any  
224.12 security interest in or transfer of energy transition property, sections 216B.491 to 216B.499  
224.13 govern.

224.14 (b) Nothing in this subdivision precludes an electric utility for which the commission  
224.15 has initially issued a financing order from applying to the commission for:

224.16 (1) a subsequent financing order amending the financing order under section 216B.492,  
224.17 subdivision 4, paragraph (d); or  
224.18 (2) approval to issue energy transition bonds to refund all or a portion of an outstanding  
224.19 series of energy transition bonds.

224.20 Sec. 45. **[216B.4991] ENERGY WORKER TRANSITION ACCOUNT.**

224.21 Subdivision 1. **Account established.** The energy worker transition account is established  
224.22 as a separate account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury. The commissioner  
224.23 of employment and economic development must credit to the account appropriations and  
224.24 transfers to the account, and payments of proceeds from the sale of bonds realized by an  
224.25 electric utility operating under a financing order issued by the commission under section  
224.26 216B.492. Earnings, including but not limited to interest, dividends, and any other earnings  
224.27 arising from assets of the account, must be credited to the account. Money remaining in the  
224.28 account at the end of a fiscal year does not cancel to the general fund but remains in the  
224.29 account until expended. The commissioner of employment and economic development must  
224.30 manage the account.

225.1        **Subd. 2. Expenditures.** (a) Money in the account may be used only to provide assistance  
225.2        to workers whose employment was terminated by an electric utility that has ceased operation  
225.3        and issued bonds under a financing order issued by the Public Utilities Commission under  
225.4        section 216B.492. The types of assistance that may be provided from the account are:

225.5        (1) transition, support, and training services listed under section 116L.17, subdivision  
225.6        4, clauses (1) to (5);

225.7        (2) employment and training services, as defined in section 116L.19, subdivision 4;

225.8        (3) income maintenance and support services, as defined in section 116L.19, subdivision  
225.9        5;

225.10        (4) assistance to workers in starting a business, as described in section 116L.17,  
225.11        subdivision 11; and

225.12        (5) extension of unemployment benefits.

225.13        (b) No more than five percent of the money in the account may be used to pay the  
225.14        department's costs to administer the account.

225.15        (c) The commissioner may make grants to a state or local government unit, nonprofit  
225.16        organization, community action agency, business organization or association, or labor  
225.17        organization to provide the services allowed under this subdivision. No more than ten percent  
225.18        of the money allocated to a grantee may be used to pay administrative costs.

225.19        Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216E.03, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

225.20        **Subd. 10. Final decision.** (a) No site permit shall be issued in violation of the site  
225.21        selection standards and criteria established in this section and in rules adopted by the  
225.22        commission. When the commission designates a site, it shall issue a site permit to the  
225.23        applicant with any appropriate conditions. The commission shall publish a notice of its  
225.24        decision in the State Register within 30 days of issuance of the site permit.

225.25        (b) No route permit shall be issued in violation of the route selection standards and  
225.26        criteria established in this section and in rules adopted by the commission. When the  
225.27        commission designates a route, it shall issue a permit for the construction of a high-voltage  
225.28        transmission line specifying the design, routing, right-of-way preparation, and facility  
225.29        construction it deems necessary, and with any other appropriate conditions. The commission  
225.30        may order the construction of high-voltage transmission line facilities that are capable of  
225.31        expansion in transmission capacity through multiple circuiting or design modifications. The

226.1 commission shall publish a notice of its decision in the State Register within 30 days of  
226.2 issuance of the permit.

226.3 (c) The commission shall require as a condition of permit issuance that the recipient of  
226.4 a site permit to construct a large electric power generating plant and all of the permit  
226.5 recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the project pay no less than the  
226.6 prevailing wage rate, as defined in section 177.42. The commission shall also require as a  
226.7 condition of modifying a site permit for a large electric power generating plant repowering  
226.8 project, as defined in section 216B.243, subdivision 8, paragraph (b), that the recipient of  
226.9 the site permit and all of the permit recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors  
226.10 on the repowering project pay no less than the prevailing wage rate, as defined in section  
226.11 177.42.

226.12 (d) The commission may require as a condition of permit issuance that the recipient of  
226.13 a site permit to construct a large electric power generating plant and all of the permit  
226.14 recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the project participate in  
226.15 apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor and Industry or  
226.16 the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor for the relevant work  
226.17 on the project. The commission may also require as a condition of modifying a site permit  
226.18 for a large electric power generating plant repowering project, as defined in section 216B.243,  
226.19 subdivision 8, paragraph (b), that the recipient of the site permit and all of the permit  
226.20 recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the repowering project participate  
226.21 in apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor and Industry  
226.22 or the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor for the relevant  
226.23 work on the project. When deciding whether to require participation in apprenticeship  
226.24 programs that are registered with the Department of Labor and Industry or the Office of  
226.25 Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor under this paragraph, the  
226.26 commission shall consider relevant factors, including the direct and indirect economic  
226.27 impact as well as the quality, efficiency, and safety of construction on the project.

226.28 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
226.29 initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

226.30 Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216F.04, is amended to read:

226.31 **216F.04 SITE PERMIT.**

226.32 (a) No person may construct an LWECS without a site permit issued by the Public  
226.33 Utilities Commission.

227.1        (b) Any person seeking to construct an LWECS shall submit an application to the  
227.2 commission for a site permit in accordance with this chapter and any rules adopted by the  
227.3 commission. The permitted site need not be contiguous land.

227.4        (c) The commission shall make a final decision on an application for a site permit for  
227.5 an LWECS within 180 days after acceptance of a complete application by the commission.  
227.6 The commission may extend this deadline for cause.

227.7        (d) The commission may place conditions in a permit and may deny, modify, suspend,  
227.8 or revoke a permit.

227.9        (e) The commission shall require as a condition of permit issuance that the recipient of  
227.10 a site permit to construct an LWECS with a nameplate capacity above 25,000 kilowatts and  
227.11 all of the permit recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the project pay  
227.12 no less than the prevailing wage rate, as defined in section 177.42. The commission shall  
227.13 also require as a condition of modifying a site permit for an LWECS repowering project as  
227.14 defined in section 216B.243, subdivision 8, paragraph (b), that the recipient of the site permit  
227.15 and all of the permit recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the repowering  
227.16 project pay no less than the prevailing wage rate, as defined in section 177.42.

227.17        (f) The commission may require as a condition of permit issuance that the recipient of  
227.18 a site permit to construct an LWECS with a nameplate capacity above 25,000 kilowatts and  
227.19 all of the permit recipient's construction contractors and subcontractors on the project  
227.20 participate in apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor and  
227.21 Industry or the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor for the  
227.22 relevant work on the project. The commission may also require as a condition of modifying  
227.23 a site permit for an LWECS repowering project as defined in section 216B.243, subdivision  
227.24 8, paragraph (b), that the recipient of the site permit and all of the permit recipient's  
227.25 construction contractors and subcontractors on the repowering project participate in  
227.26 apprenticeship programs that are registered with the Department of Labor and Industry or  
227.27 the Office of Apprenticeship of the United States Department of Labor for the relevant work  
227.28 on the project. When deciding whether to require participation in apprenticeship programs  
227.29 that are registered with the Department of Labor and Industry or the Office of Apprenticeship  
227.30 of the United States Department of Labor under this paragraph, the commission shall consider  
227.31 relevant factors, including the direct and indirect economic impact as well as the quality,  
227.32 efficiency, and safety of construction on the project.

227.33        **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective August 1, 2021, and applies to dockets  
227.34 initiated at the Public Utilities Commission on or after that date.

228.1      **Sec. 48. PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION; EVALUATION OF THE ROLE OF**  
228.2      **NATURAL GAS UTILITIES IN ACHIEVING STATE GREENHOUSE GAS**  
228.3      **REDUCTION GOALS.**

228.4      By August 1, 2021, the Public Utilities Commission must initiate a proceeding to evaluate  
228.5      changes to natural gas utility regulatory and policy structures needed to support the state's  
228.6      greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals, including those established in Minnesota Statutes,  
228.7      section 216H.02, subdivision 1, and to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050,  
228.8      as determined by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

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

228.10     **Sec. 49. APPROPRIATIONS.**

228.11     **Subdivision 1. Construction materials; environmental impact study.** (a) \$100,000  
228.12     in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
228.13     administration to complete the study required under this section. This is a onetime  
228.14     appropriation.

228.15     (b) The commissioner of administration must contract with the Center for Sustainable  
228.16     Building Research at the University of Minnesota to examine the feasibility, economic costs,  
228.17     and environmental benefits of requiring a bid that proposes to use or construct one or more  
228.18     eligible materials in the construction or major renovation of a new state building to include  
228.19     a supply-chain specific type III environmental product declaration for each of those materials,  
228.20     which information must be taken into consideration in making a contract award. In conducting  
228.21     the study, the Center for Sustainable Building Research must examine and evaluate similar  
228.22     programs adopted in other states.

228.23     (c) By February 1, 2022, the commissioner of administration must submit the findings  
228.24     and recommendations of the study to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate  
228.25     and house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over environmental  
228.26     policy.

228.27     (d) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

228.28     (1) "eligible materials" means any of the following materials that function as part of a  
228.29     structural system or structural assembly:

228.30     (i) concrete, including structural cast in place, shotcrete, and precast;  
228.31     (ii) unit masonry;  
228.32     (iii) metal of any type; and

229.1       (iv) wood of any type, including but not limited to wood composites and wood-laminated  
229.2       products;

229.3       (2) "engineered wood" means a product manufactured by banding or fixing strands,  
229.4       particles, fiber, or veneers of boards of wood by means of adhesives, combined with heat  
229.5       and pressure, or other methods to form composite material;

229.6       (3) "state building" means a building owned by the state of Minnesota;

229.7       (4) "structural" means a building material or component that supports gravity loads of  
229.8       building floors, roofs, or both, and is the primary lateral system resisting wind and earthquake  
229.9       loads, including but not limited to shear walls, braced or moment frames, foundations,  
229.10       below-grade walls, and floors;

229.11       (5) "supply-chain specific" means an environmental product declaration that includes  
229.12       supply-chain specific data for production processes that contribute to 80 percent or more  
229.13       of a product's lifecycle global warming potential. For engineered wood products,  
229.14       "supply-chain specific" also means an environmental product declaration that reports:

229.15       (i) any chain of custody certification; and

229.16       (ii) the percentage of wood, by volume, used in the product that is sourced:

229.17       (A) by state or province and country;

229.18       (B) by type of owner, whether federal, state, private, or other; and

229.19       (C) with forest management certification; and

229.20       (6) "type III environmental product declaration" means a document verified and registered  
229.21       by a third party that contains a life-cycle assessment of the environmental impacts, including  
229.22       but not limited to the use of water, land, and energy resources in the manufacturing process,  
229.23       of a specific product constructed or manufactured by a specific firm and that meets the  
229.24       applicable standards developed and maintained for such assessments by the International  
229.25       Organization for Standardization (ISO).

229.26       Subd. 2. **Natural gas innovation plan; implementation.** (a) \$189,000 in fiscal year  
229.27       2022 and \$189,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the  
229.28       commissioner of commerce for activities associated with a utility's implementation of a  
229.29       natural gas innovation plan under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.2427.

229.30       (b) \$112,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$112,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
229.31       the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission for the activities associated with a

230.1 utility's implementation of a natural gas innovation plan under Minnesota Statutes, section  
230.2 216B.2427.

230.3 Subd. 3. **Energy Transition Office.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
230.4 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$450,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$450,000 in fiscal  
230.5 year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established in Minnesota  
230.6 Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of employment and economic  
230.7 development to operate the Energy Transition Office established under Minnesota Statutes,  
230.8 section 116J.5491.

230.9 Subd. 4. **Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority.** Notwithstanding Minnesota  
230.10 Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$10,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is  
230.11 appropriated from the renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes,  
230.12 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce to transfer to the  
230.13 Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority established under Minnesota Statutes, section  
230.14 216C.441. This is a onetime appropriation. Of this amount, the Minnesota Innovation Finance  
230.15 Authority may obligate up to \$50,000 for start-up expenses, including but not limited to  
230.16 expenses incurred prior to incorporation.

230.17 Subd. 5. **Beneficial electrification.** (a) \$30,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$30,000 in fiscal  
230.18 year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to  
230.19 participate in Public Utilities Commission proceedings regarding utility beneficial  
230.20 electrification plans, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.248.

230.21 (b) \$56,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$28,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
230.22 the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission for activities associated with utility  
230.23 beneficial electrification plans, as described in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.248.

230.24 Subd. 6. **Securitization.** (a) \$126,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$126,000 in fiscal year  
230.25 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to implement  
230.26 Minnesota Statutes, sections 216B.491 to 216B.4991.

230.27 (b) \$207,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$147,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
230.28 the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission to implement Minnesota Statutes,  
230.29 sections 216B.491 to 216B.4991.

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

230.31 Sec. 50. **REPEALER.**

230.32 Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1691, subdivision 2, is repealed.

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

231.2 **ARTICLE 9**

231.3 **CLIMATE CHANGE**

231.4 Section 1. **[16B.312] CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS; ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS.**

231.6 **Subdivision 1. Title.** This section may be known and cited as the "Buy Clean and Buy  
231.7 Fair Minnesota Act."

231.8 **Subd. 2. Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings  
231.9 given.

231.10 (a) "Carbon steel" means steel in which the main alloying element is carbon and whose  
231.11 properties are chiefly dependent on the percentage of carbon present.

231.12 (b) "Department" means the Department of Administration.

231.13 (c) "Eligible material category" means:

231.14 (1) carbon steel rebar;

231.15 (2) structural steel;

231.16 (3) photovoltaic devices, as defined in section 216C.06, subdivision 16; or

231.17 (4) an energy storage system, as defined in section 216B.2421, subdivision 1, paragraph

231.18 (f), that is installed as part of an eligible project.

231.19 (d) "Eligible project" means:

231.20 (1) new construction of a state building larger than 50,000 gross square feet of occupied  
231.21 or conditioned space; or

231.22 (2) renovation of more than 50,000 gross square feet of occupied or conditioned space  
231.23 in a state building whose renovation cost exceeds 50 percent of the building's assessed value.

231.24 (e) "Environmental product declaration" means a supply chain specific type III  
231.25 environmental product declaration that:

231.26 (1) contains a lifecycle assessment of the environmental impacts of manufacturing a  
231.27 specific product by a specific firm, including the impacts of extracting and producing the  
231.28 raw materials and components that compose the product;

231.29 (2) is verified and registered by a third party; and

232.1 (3) meets the applicable standards developed and maintained for such assessments by  
232.2 the International Organization for Standardization (ISO).

232.3 (f) "Global warming potential" has the meaning given in section 216H.10, subdivision

232.4 5.

232.5 (g) "Greenhouse gas" has the meaning given to statewide greenhouse gas emissions in  
232.6 section 216H.01, subdivision 2.

232.7 (h) "Lifecycle" means an analysis that includes the environmental impacts of all stages  
232.8 of a specific product's production, from mining and processing the product's raw materials  
232.9 to the process of manufacturing the product.

232.10 (i) "Rebar" means a steel reinforcing bar or rod encased in concrete.

232.11 (j) "State building" means a building whose construction or renovation is funded wholly  
232.12 or partially from the proceeds of bonds issued by the state of Minnesota.

232.13 (k) "Structural steel" means steel that is classified by the shapes of its cross-sections,  
232.14 such as I, T, and C shapes.

232.15 (l) "Supply chain specific" means an environmental product declaration that includes  
232.16 specific data for the production processes of the materials and components composing a  
232.17 product that contribute at least 80 percent of the product's lifecycle global warming potential,  
232.18 as defined in International Organization for Standardization standard 21930.

232.19 **Subd. 3. Standard; maximum global warming potential.** (a) No later than September  
232.20 1, 2022, the commissioner shall establish and publish a maximum acceptable global warming  
232.21 potential for each eligible material used in an eligible project, in accordance with the  
232.22 following requirements:

232.23 (1) the commissioner shall, after considering nationally or internationally recognized  
232.24 databases of environmental product declarations for an eligible material category, establish  
232.25 the maximum acceptable global warming potential at the industry average global warming  
232.26 potential for that eligible material category; and

232.27 (2) the commissioner may set different maximums for different specific products within  
232.28 each eligible material category.

232.29 The global warming potential shall be provided in a manner that is consistent with criteria  
232.30 in an environmental product declaration.

232.31 (b) No later than September 1, 2025, and every three years thereafter, the commissioner  
232.32 shall review the maximum acceptable global warming potential for each eligible materials

233.1 category and for specific products within an eligible materials category established under  
233.2 paragraph (a). The commissioner may adjust those values downward for any eligible material  
233.3 category or product to reflect industry improvements if the commissioner, based on the  
233.4 process described in paragraph (a), clause (1), determines that the industry average has  
233.5 declined. The commissioner must not adjust the maximum acceptable global warming  
233.6 potential upward for any eligible material category or product.

233.7 Subd. 4. **Bidding process.** (a) Except as provided in paragraph (c), the department shall  
233.8 require in a specification for bids for an eligible project that the global warming potential  
233.9 reported by a bidder in the environmental product declaration for any eligible material  
233.10 category must not exceed the maximum acceptable global warming potential for that eligible  
233.11 material category or product established under subdivision 2. The department may require  
233.12 in a specification for bids for an eligible project a global warming potential for any eligible  
233.13 material that is lower than the maximum acceptable global warming potential for that  
233.14 material established under subdivision 2.

233.15 (b) Except as provided in paragraph (c), a successful bidder for a contract must not use  
233.16 or install any eligible material on the project until the commissioner has provided notice to  
233.17 the bidder in writing that the commissioner has determined that a supply chain-specific  
233.18 environmental product declaration submitted by the bidder for that material meets the  
233.19 requirements of this subdivision.

233.20 (c) A bidder may be exempted from the requirements of paragraphs (a) and (b) if the  
233.21 commissioner determines that complying with the provisions of paragraph (a) would create  
233.22 financial hardship for the bidder. The commissioner shall make a determination of hardship  
233.23 if the commissioner finds that:

233.24 (1) the bidder has made a good faith effort to obtain the data required in an environmental  
233.25 product declaration; and

233.26 (2) the bidder has provided all the data obtained in pursuit of an environmental product  
233.27 declaration to the commissioner; and

233.28 (3) based on a detailed estimate of the costs of obtaining an environmental product  
233.29 declaration, and taking into consideration the bidder's annual gross revenues, complying  
233.30 with paragraph (a) would cause the bidder financial hardship; or

233.31 (4) complying with paragraph (a) would disrupt the bidder's ability to perform contractual  
233.32 obligations.

234.1        Subd. 5. Pilot program. (a) No later than July 1, 2022, the department must establish  
234.2        a pilot program that seeks to obtain from vendors an estimate of the lifecycle greenhouse  
234.3        gas emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions from mining raw materials, of products  
234.4        selected by the department from among the products the department procures. The pilot  
234.5        program must encourage but must not require a product vendor to submit the following data  
234.6        for each selected product that represents at least 90 percent of the total cost of the materials  
234.7        or components used in the selected product:

234.8        (1) the quantity of the product purchased by the department;  
234.9        (2) a current environmental product declaration for the product;  
234.10       (3) the name and location of the product's manufacturer;  
234.11       (4) a copy of the product vendor's Supplier Code of Conduct, if any;  
234.12       (5) names and locations of the product's actual production facilities; and  
234.13       (6) an assessment of employee working conditions at the product's actual production  
234.14       facilities.

234.15       (b) The department must construct a publicly accessible database posted on the  
234.16       department's website containing the data reported under this subdivision. The data must be  
234.17       reported in a manner that precludes, directly, or in combination with other publicly available  
234.18       data, the identification of the product manufacturer.

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

234.20       Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216H.02, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

234.21       Subdivision 1. **Greenhouse gas emissions-reduction goal.** (a) It is the goal of the state  
234.22       to reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors producing those emissions  
234.23       ~~to a level at least 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2015, to a level at least 30 percent below~~  
234.24       ~~2005 levels by 2025, and to a level at least 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. by at~~  
234.25       least the following amounts, compared with the level of emissions in 2005:

234.26       (1) 15 percent by 2015;  
234.27       (2) 30 percent by 2025;  
234.28       (3) 45 percent by 2030; and  
234.29       (4) net zero by 2050.

234.30       (b) The ~~levels~~ targets shall be reviewed ~~based on the climate change action plan study~~  
234.31       annually by the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, taking into account the

235.1 latest scientific research on the impacts of climate change and strategies to reduce greenhouse  
235.2 gas emissions published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. The  
235.3 commissioner shall forward any recommended changes to the targets to the chairs and  
235.4 ranking minority members of the senate and house of representatives committees with  
235.5 primary jurisdiction over climate change and environmental policy.

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

235.7 **Sec. 3. [239.7912] FUTURE FUELS ACT.**

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

235.10 (b) "Carbon dioxide equivalent" means the number of metric tons of carbon dioxide  
235.11 emissions that have the same global warming potential as one metric ton of another  
235.12 greenhouse gas.

235.13 (c) "Carbon intensity" means the quantity of life cycle greenhouse gas emissions  
235.14 associated with a unit of a specific transportation fuel, expressed in grams of carbon dioxide  
235.15 equivalent per megajoule of transportation fuel, as calculated by the most recent version of  
235.16 Argonne National Laboratory's GREET model and adapted to Minnesota by the department  
235.17 through rulemaking or administrative process.

235.18 (d) "Clean fuel" means a transportation fuel that has a carbon intensity level that is below  
235.19 the clean fuels carbon intensity standard in a given year.

235.20 (e) "Credit" means a unit of measure equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent,  
235.21 and that serves as a quantitative measure of the degree to which a fuel provider's  
235.22 transportation fuel volume is lower than the carbon intensity embodied in an applicable  
235.23 clean fuels standard.

235.24 (f) "Credit generator" means an entity involved in supplying a clean fuel.

235.25 (g) "Deficit" means a unit of measure (1) equal to one metric ton of carbon dioxide  
235.26 equivalent, and (2) that serves as a quantitative measure of the degree to which a fuel  
235.27 provider's volume of transportation fuel is greater than the carbon intensity embodied in an  
235.28 applicable future fuels standard.

235.29 (h) "Deficit generator" means a fuel provider who generates deficits and who first  
235.30 produces or imports a transportation fuel for use in Minnesota.

235.31 (i) "Fuel life cycle" means the total aggregate greenhouse gas emissions resulting from  
235.32 all stages of a fuel pathway for a specific transportation fuel.

236.1       (j) "Fuel pathway" means a detailed description of all stages of a transportation fuel's  
236.2        production and use, including extraction, processing, transportation, distribution, and  
236.3        combustion or use by an end-user.

236.4       (k) "Fuel provider" means an entity that supplies a transportation fuel for use in  
236.5        Minnesota.

236.6       (l) "Global warming potential" or "GWP" means a quantitative measure of a greenhouse  
236.7        gas emission's potential to contribute to global warming over a 100-year period, expressed  
236.8        in terms of the equivalent carbon dioxide emission needed to produce the same 100-year  
236.9        warming effect.

236.10       (m) "Greenhouse gas" means carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons,  
236.11        perfluorocarbons, or sulfur hexafluoride.

236.12       (n) "Motor vehicle" has the meaning given in section 169.011, subdivision 42.

236.13       (o) "Relevant petroleum-only portion of transportation fuels" means the component of  
236.14        gasoline or diesel fuel prior to blending with ethanol, biodiesel, or other biofuel.

236.15       (p) "Technology provider" means a manufacturer of an end-use consumer technology  
236.16        involved in supplying clean fuels.

236.17       (q) "Transportation fuel" means electricity or a liquid or gaseous fuel that (1) is blended,  
236.18        sold, supplied, offered for sale, or used to propel a motor vehicle, including but not limited  
236.19        to train, light rail vehicle, ship, aircraft, forklift, or other road or nonroad vehicle in  
236.20        Minnesota, and (2) meets applicable standards, specifications, and testing requirements  
236.21        under this chapter. Transportation fuel includes but is not limited to electricity used as fuel  
236.22        in a motor vehicle, gasoline, diesel, ethanol, biodiesel, renewable diesel, propane, renewable  
236.23        propane, natural gas, renewable natural gas, hydrogen, aviation fuel, and biomethane.

236.24       **Subd. 2. Clean fuels standard; establishment by rule; goals.** (a) No later than October  
236.25        1, 2021, the commissioner must publish notice of the intent to adopt rules, as required under  
236.26        section 14.22, that implement a clean fuels standard and other provisions of this section.  
236.27        The timing requirement to publish a notice of intent to adopt rules or notice of hearing under  
236.28        section 14.125 does not apply to rules adopted under this subdivision.

236.29       (b) The commissioner must consult with the commissioners of transportation, agriculture,  
236.30        and the Pollution Control Agency when developing the rules under this subdivision. The  
236.31        commissioner may gather input from stakeholders through various means, including a task  
236.32        force, working groups, and public workshops. The commissioner, collaborating with the  
236.33        Department of Transportation, may consult with stakeholders, including but not limited to

237.1 fuel providers; consumers; rural, urban, and Tribal communities; agriculture; environmental  
237.2 and environmental justice organizations; technology providers; and other businesses.

237.3 (c) When developing the rule, the commissioner must endeavor to make available to  
237.4 Minnesota a fuel-neutral clean fuels portfolio that:

237.5 (1) creates broad rural and urban economic development;

237.6 (2) provides benefits for communities, consumers, clean fuel providers, technology  
237.7 providers, and feedstock suppliers;

237.8 (3) increases energy security from expanded reliance on domestically produced fuels;

237.9 (4) supports equitable transportation electrification that benefits all communities and is  
237.10 powered primarily with low-carbon and carbon-free electricity;

237.11 (5) improves air quality and public health, targeting communities that bear a  
237.12 disproportionate health burden from transportation pollution;

237.13 (6) supports state solid waste recycling goals by facilitating credit generation from  
237.14 renewable natural gas produced from organic waste;

237.15 (7) aims to support, through credit generation or other financial means, voluntary  
237.16 farmer-led efforts to adopt agricultural practices that benefit soil health and water quality  
237.17 while contributing to lower life cycle greenhouse gas emissions from clean fuel feedstocks;

237.18 (8) maximizes benefits to the environment and natural resources, develops safeguards  
237.19 and incentives to protect natural lands, and enhances environmental integrity, including  
237.20 biodiversity; and

237.21 (9) is the result of extensive outreach efforts to stakeholders and communities that bear  
237.22 a disproportionate health burden from pollution from transportation or from the production  
237.23 and transportation of transportation fuels.

237.24 Subd. 3. Clean fuels standard; establishment. (a) A clean fuels standard is established  
237.25 that requires the aggregate carbon intensity of transportation fuel supplied to Minnesota be  
237.26 reduced to at least 20 percent below the 2018 baseline level by the end of 2035. In  
237.27 consultation with the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Agriculture, and Department  
237.28 of Transportation, the commissioner must establish by rule a schedule of annual standards  
237.29 that steadily decreases the carbon intensity of transportation fuels.

237.30 (b) When determining the schedule of annual standards, the commissioner must consider  
237.31 the cost of compliance, the technologies available to a provider to achieve the standard, the

238.1 need to maintain fuel quality and availability, and the policy goals under subdivision 2,  
238.2 paragraph (c).

238.3 (c) Nothing in this chapter precludes the department from adopting rules that allow the  
238.4 generation of credits associated with electric or alternative transportation fuels or  
238.5 infrastructure that existed prior to the effective date of this section or the start date of program  
238.6 requirements.

238.7 Subd. 4. **Clean fuels standard; baseline calculation.** The department must calculate  
238.8 the baseline carbon intensity of the relevant petroleum-only portion of transportation fuels  
238.9 for the 2018 calendar year after reviewing and considering the best available applicable  
238.10 scientific data and calculations.

238.11 Subd. 5. **Clean fuels standard; compliance.** A deficit generator may comply with this  
238.12 section by:

238.13 (1) producing or importing transportation fuels whose carbon intensity is at or below  
238.14 the level of the applicable year's standard; or  
238.15 (2) purchasing sufficient credits to offset any aggregate deficits resulting from the carbon  
238.16 intensity of the deficit generator's transportation fuels exceeding the applicable year's  
238.17 standard.

238.18 Subd. 6. **Clean fuel credits.** The commissioner must establish by rule a program for  
238.19 tradeable credits and deficits. The commissioner must adopt rules to fairly and reasonably  
238.20 operate a credit market that may include:

238.21 (1) a market mechanism that allows credits to be traded or banked for future use;  
238.22 (2) transaction fees associated with the credit market; and  
238.23 (3) procedures to verify the validity of credits and deficits generated by a fuel provider  
238.24 under this section.

238.25 Subd. 7. **Fuel pathway and carbon intensity determination.** The commissioner must  
238.26 establish a process to determine the carbon intensity of transportation fuels, including but  
238.27 not limited to the review by the commissioner of a fuel pathway submitted by a fuel provider.  
238.28 Fuel pathways must be calculated using the most recent version of the Argonne National  
238.29 Laboratory's GREET model adapted to Minnesota, as determined by the commissioner.  
238.30 The fuel pathway determination process must (1) be consistent for all fuel types, (2) be  
238.31 science- and engineering-based, and (3) reflect differences in vehicle fuel efficiency and  
238.32 drive trains. The commissioner must consult with the Department of Agriculture, Department  
238.33 of Transportation, and Pollution Control Agency to determine fuel pathways, and may

239.1 coordinate with third-party entities or other states to review and approve pathways to reduce  
239.2 the administrative cost.

239.3 **Subd. 8. Fuel provider reports.** The commissioner must collaborate with the Department  
239.4 of Transportation, Department of Agriculture, Pollution Control Agency, and the Public  
239.5 Utilities Commission to develop a process, including forms developed by the commissioner,  
239.6 for credit and deficit generators to submit required compliance reporting.

239.7 **Subd. 9. Enforcement.** The commissioner of commerce may enforce this section under  
239.8 section 45.027.

239.9 **Subd. 10. Report to legislature.** No later than 48 months after the effective date of a  
239.10 rule implementing a clean fuels standard, the commissioner must submit a report detailing  
239.11 program implementation to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and  
239.12 house committees with jurisdiction over transportation and climate change. The commissioner  
239.13 must make summary information on the program available to the public.

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

239.15 **Sec. 4. INTEGRATING GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS INTO STATE  
239.16 ACTIVITIES; PLAN.**

239.17 By February 15, 2022, the Climate Change Subcabinet established in Executive Order  
239.18 19-37 must provide to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and house of  
239.19 representatives committees with jurisdiction over climate and energy a preliminary report  
239.20 on a Climate Transition Plan for incorporating the statewide greenhouse gas emission  
239.21 reduction targets under Minnesota Statutes, section 216H.02, subdivision 1, into all aspects  
239.22 of state agency activities, including but not limited to planning, awarding grants, purchasing,  
239.23 regulating, funding, and permitting. The preliminary report must identify statutory changes  
239.24 required for this purpose. The Pollution Control Agency must collaborate with the  
239.25 Department of Administration to estimate greenhouse gas emissions from governmental  
239.26 activities. The final Climate Transition Plan is due August 1, 2022, and must identify any  
239.27 additional resources required to implement the plan's recommendations.

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

239.29 **Sec. 5. SMALL-AREA CLIMATE MODEL PROJECTIONS FOR MINNESOTA.**

239.30 (a) The Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota is requested to conduct a study  
239.31 that generates climate model projections for the entire state of Minnesota at a level of detail  
239.32 as small as three square miles in area. At a minimum, the study must:

240.1        (1) use resources at the Minnesota Supercomputing Institute to analyze high-performing  
240.2        climate models under varying greenhouse gas emissions scenarios and develop a series of  
240.3        projections of temperature, precipitation, snow cover, and a variety of other climate  
240.4        parameters through the year 2100;

240.5        (2) downscale the climate impact results under clause (1) to areas as small as three square  
240.6        miles;

240.7        (3) develop a publicly accessible data portal website to:

240.8        (i) allow other universities, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and government agencies  
240.9        to use the model projections; and

240.10        (ii) educate and train users to use the data most effectively; and

240.11        (4) incorporate information on how to use the model results in the University of  
240.12        Minnesota Extension's climate education efforts, in partnership with the Minnesota Climate  
240.13        Adaptation Partnership.

240.14        (b) In conjunction with the study, the university must conduct at least two "train the  
240.15        trainer" workshops for state agencies, municipalities, and other stakeholders to educate  
240.16        attendees regarding how to use and interpret the model data as a basis for climate adaptation  
240.17        and resilience efforts.

240.18        (c) Beginning July 1, 2022, and continuing each July 1 through 2024, the University of  
240.19        Minnesota must provide a written report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
240.20        senate and house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over agriculture,  
240.21        energy, and environment. The report must document the progress made on the study and  
240.22        study results and must note any obstacles encountered that could prevent successful  
240.23        completion of the study.

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

240.25        Sec. 6. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

240.26        Subdivision 1. **Buy clean, buy fair.** \$176,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$40,000 in fiscal  
240.27        year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of administration for  
240.28        costs to establish (1) maximum global warming potential standards for certain construction  
240.29        materials, and (2) the pilot program for vendors under Minnesota Statutes, section 16B.312.  
240.30        The base in fiscal year 2024 is \$40,000 and the base in fiscal year 2025 is \$90,000. The  
240.31        base in fiscal year 2026 is \$0.

241.1        Subd. 2. **Clean fuels report.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
241.2        subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$100,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the renewable  
241.3        development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1,  
241.4        to the commissioner of commerce to pay for costs incurred to create the report under  
241.5        Minnesota Statutes, section 239.7912, subdivision 10. The money from this appropriation  
241.6        does not cancel but remains available until expended. This is a onetime appropriation.

241.7        Subd. 3. **Small-area climate-model projections.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
241.8        section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$583,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated  
241.9        from the renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes, section  
241.10        116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for a grant to the Board of  
241.11        Regents of the University of Minnesota to conduct the study requested under section 5 that  
241.12        generates climate model projections for the entire state of Minnesota, at a level of detail as  
241.13        small as three square miles in area. This is a onetime appropriation.

241.14        Subd. 4. **Climate Transition Plan.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
241.15        116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j):

241.16        (1) \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the renewable development account  
241.17        established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of  
241.18        the Pollution Control Agency to contract with an independent consultant to produce a plan,  
241.19        as directed by the Climate Change Subcabinet, to incorporate the state's greenhouse gas  
241.20        emissions reduction targets into all activities of state agencies;

241.21        (2) \$118,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the renewable development account  
241.22        established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of  
241.23        administration to develop greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets that apply to all state  
241.24        agency activities; and

241.25        (3) \$128,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the renewable development account  
241.26        established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of  
241.27        the Pollution Control Agency for costs associated with managing the contract under clause  
241.28        (1), and to assist the Department of Administration to develop greenhouse gas emissions  
241.29        reduction targets that apply to all state agency activities.

241.30        (b) All the appropriations in this subdivision are onetime appropriations.

242.1

**ARTICLE 10**

242.2

**ELECTRIC VEHICLES**

242.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 16C.135, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

242.4 Subd. 3. **Vehicle purchases.** (a) Consistent with section 16C.137, subdivision 1, when  
242.5 purchasing a motor vehicle for the central motor pool or for use by an agency, the  
242.6 commissioner or the agency shall purchase ~~a motor vehicle that is capable of being powered~~  
~~by cleaner fuels, or a motor vehicle powered by electricity or by a combination of electricity~~  
~~and liquid fuel, if the total life-cycle cost of ownership is less than or comparable to that of~~  
~~other vehicles and if the vehicle is capable~~ the motor vehicle in conformity with the following  
242.9 hierarchy of preferences:242.11 (1) an electric vehicle;242.12 (2) a hybrid electric vehicle;242.13 (3) a vehicle capable of being powered by cleaner fuels; and242.14 (4) a vehicle powered by gasoline or diesel fuel.242.15 (b) The commissioner may only reject a vehicle type that is higher on the hierarchy of  
242.16 preferences if:242.17 (1) the vehicle type is incapable of carrying out the purpose for which it is purchased; or242.18 or  
242.19 (2) the total life-cycle cost of ownership of a preferred vehicle type is more than ten  
242.20 percent higher than the next lower preference vehicle type.242.21 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

242.22 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 16C.137, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

242.23 Subdivision 1. **Goals and actions.** Each state department must, whenever legally,  
242.24 technically, and economically feasible, subject to the specific needs of the department and  
242.25 responsible management of agency finances:242.26 (1) ensure that all new on-road vehicles purchased, excluding emergency and law  
242.27 enforcement vehicles, are purchased in conformity with the hierarchy of preferences  
242.28 established in section 16C.135, subdivision 3;242.29 (i) use "cleaner fuels" as that term is defined in section 16C.135, subdivision 1;

243.1        ~~(ii) have fuel efficiency ratings that exceed 30 miles per gallon for city usage or 35 miles~~  
243.2        ~~per gallon for highway usage, including but not limited to hybrid electric cars and~~  
243.3        ~~hydrogen-powered vehicles; or~~

243.4        ~~(iii) are powered solely by electricity;~~

243.5        (2) increase its use of renewable transportation fuels, including ethanol, biodiesel, and  
243.6        hydrogen from agricultural products; and

243.7        (3) increase its use of web-based Internet applications and other electronic information  
243.8        technologies to enhance the access to and delivery of government information and services  
243.9        to the public, and reduce the reliance on the department's fleet for the delivery of such  
243.10        information and services.

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

243.12        Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 168.27, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
243.13        read:

243.14        **Subd. 2a. Dealer training; electric vehicles.** (a) A new motor vehicle dealer licensed  
243.15        under this chapter that operates under an agreement or franchise from a manufacturer and  
243.16        sells electric vehicles must maintain at least one employee who is certified as having  
243.17        completed a training course offered by a Minnesota motor vehicle dealership association  
243.18        that addresses at least the following elements:

243.19        (1) fundamentals of electric vehicles;

243.20        (2) electric vehicle charging options and costs;

243.21        (3) publicly available electric vehicle incentives;

243.22        (4) projected maintenance and fueling costs for electric vehicles;

243.23        (5) reduced tailpipe emissions, including greenhouse gas emissions, produced by electric  
243.24        vehicles;

243.25        (6) the impacts of Minnesota's cold climate on electric vehicle operation; and

243.26        (7) best practices to sell electric vehicles.

243.27        (b) This subdivision does not apply to a licensed dealer selling new electric vehicles of  
243.28        a manufacturer's own brand, but who is not operating under a franchise agreement with the  
243.29        manufacturer.

243.30        (c) For the purposes of this section, "electric vehicle" has the meaning given in section  
243.31        169.011, subdivision 26a, paragraphs (a) and (b), clause (3).

244.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2022.

244.2 Sec. 4. **[216B.1615] ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

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

244.5 (b) "Battery exchange station" means a physical location deploying equipment that  
244.6 enables a used electric vehicle battery to be removed and exchanged for a fresh electric  
244.7 vehicle battery.

244.8 (c) "Electric vehicle" has the meaning given in section 169.011, subdivision 26a.

244.9 (d) "Electric vehicle charging station" means a physical location deploying equipment  
244.10 that:

244.11 (1) transfers electricity to an electric vehicle battery; or

244.12 (2) dispenses hydrogen, produced by electrolysis, into an electric vehicle that uses a fuel  
244.13 cell to convert the hydrogen to electricity.

244.14 (e) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means electric vehicle charging stations and battery  
244.15 exchange stations, and any associated machinery, equipment, and infrastructure necessary  
244.16 to support the operation of electric vehicles and to make electricity from a public utility's  
244.17 electric distribution system available to electric vehicle charging stations or battery exchange  
244.18 stations.

244.19 (f) "Electrolysis" means the process of using electricity to split water into hydrogen and  
244.20 oxygen.

244.21 (g) "Fuel cell" means a cell that converts the chemical energy of hydrogen directly into  
244.22 electricity through electrochemical reactions.

244.23 (h) "Public utility" has the meaning given in section 216B.02, subdivision 4.

244.24 **Subd. 2. Transportation electrification plan; contents.** (a) By June 1, 2022, and by  
244.25 June 1 every three years thereafter, a public utility serving retail electric customers in a city  
244.26 of the first class, as defined in section 410.01, must file a transportation electrification plan  
244.27 with the commission that is designed to maximize the overall benefits of electrified  
244.28 transportation while minimizing overall costs and to promote:

244.29 (1) the purchase of electric vehicles by the public utility's customers; and

244.30 (2) the deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure in the public utility's service territory.

245.1        (b) A transportation electrification plan may include but is not limited to the following  
245.2        elements:

245.3        (1) programs to educate and increase the awareness and benefits of electric vehicles and  
245.4        electric vehicle charging equipment to potential users and deployers, including individuals,  
245.5        electric vehicle dealers, single-family and multifamily housing developers and property  
245.6        management companies, and vehicle fleet managers;

245.7        (2) utility investments and incentives to facilitate the deployment of electric vehicles,  
245.8        customer- or utility-owned electric vehicle charging stations, electric vehicle infrastructure,  
245.9        and other electric utility infrastructure;

245.10        (3) research and demonstration projects to publicize and measure the value electric  
245.11        vehicles provide to the electric grid;

245.12        (4) rate structures or programs, including time-varying rates and charging optimization  
245.13        programs, that encourage electric vehicle charging that optimizes electric grid operation;  
245.14        and

245.15        (5) programs to increase access to the benefits of electricity as a transportation fuel by  
245.16        low-income customers and communities, including the installation of electric vehicle  
245.17        infrastructure in neighborhoods with a high proportion of low- or moderate-income  
245.18        households, the deployment of electric vehicle infrastructure in community-based locations  
245.19        or multifamily residences, car share programs, and electrification of public transit vehicles.

245.20        (c) A public utility must give priority under this section to making investments in  
245.21        communities whose governing body has enacted a resolution or goal supporting electric  
245.22        vehicle adoption.

245.23        (d) A public utility must work with local communities to identify suitable high-density  
245.24        locations, consistent with a community's local development plans, where electric vehicle  
245.25        infrastructure may be strategically deployed.

245.26        **Subd. 3. Transportation electrification plan; review and implementation.** The  
245.27        commission must review a transportation electrification plan filed under this section within  
245.28        180 days of receiving the plan. The commission may approve, modify, or reject a  
245.29        transportation electrification plan. When reviewing a public utility's transportation  
245.30        electrification plan, the commission must consider whether the programs and expenditures:

245.31        (1) improve electric grid operation and the integration of renewable energy sources;  
245.32        (2) increase access to the benefits of electricity as a transportation fuel in low-income  
245.33        and rural communities;

246.1        (3) reduce statewide greenhouse gas emissions, as defined in section 216H.01, and  
246.2        emissions of other air pollutants that impair the environment and public health;  
246.3        (4) stimulate private capital investment and the creation of skilled jobs as a consequence  
246.4        of widespread electric vehicle deployment;  
246.5        (5) educate potential customers about the benefits of electric vehicles;  
246.6        (6) support increased consumer choice with respect to electrical vehicle charging options  
246.7        and related infrastructure; and  
246.8        (7) are transparent and incorporate sufficient and frequent public reporting of program  
246.9        activities to facilitate changes in program design and commission policy with respect to  
246.10        electric vehicles.

246.11        Subd. 4. **Cost recovery.** (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the  
246.12        commission may approve, with respect to any prudent and reasonable investment made by  
246.13        a public utility to administer and implement a transportation electrification plan approved  
246.14        under subdivision 3:

246.15        (1) a rider or other tariff mechanism for the automatic annual adjustment of charges;  
246.16        (2) performance-based incentives; or  
246.17        (3) placing the investment, including rebates, in the public utility's rate base and allowing  
246.18        the public utility to earn a rate of return on the investment at (i) the public utility's average  
246.19        weighted cost of capital, including the rate of return on equity, approved by the commission  
246.20        in the public utility's most recent general rate case, or (ii) another rate determined by the  
246.21        commission.

246.22        (b) Notwithstanding section 216B.16, subdivision 8, paragraph (a), clause (3), the  
246.23        commission must approve recovery costs for expenses reasonably incurred by a public  
246.24        utility to provide public advertisement as part of a transportation electrification plan approved  
246.25        by the commission under subdivision 3.

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

246.27        **Sec. 5. [216B.1616] ELECTRIC SCHOOL BUS DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.**

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

246.30        (b) "Battery exchange station" means a physical location where equipment is deployed  
246.31        that enables a used electric vehicle battery to be exchanged for a fully charged battery.

247.1 (c) "Electric school bus" means an electric vehicle that is a school bus.

247.2 (d) "Electric vehicle" has the meaning given in section 169.011, subdivision 26a.

247.3 (e) "Electric vehicle charging station" means a physical location deploying equipment

247.4 that delivers electricity to a battery in an electric vehicle.

247.5 (f) "Electric vehicle infrastructure" means electric vehicle charging stations and battery

247.6 exchange stations, and any other infrastructure necessary to make electricity from a public

247.7 utility's electric distribution system available to electric vehicle charging stations or battery

247.8 exchange stations.

247.9 (g) "Poor air quality" means:

247.10 (1) ambient air levels that air monitoring data reveals approach or exceed state or federal

247.11 air quality standards or chronic health inhalation risk benchmarks for any of the following

247.12 pollutants:

247.13 (i) total suspended particulates;

247.14 (ii) particulate matter less than ten microns wide (PM-10);

247.15 (iii) particulate matter less than 2.5 microns wide (PM-2.5);

247.16 (iv) sulfur dioxide; or

247.17 (v) nitrogen dioxide; or

247.18 (2) levels of asthma among children that significantly exceed the statewide average.

247.19 (h) "School bus" has the meaning given in section 169.011, subdivision 71.

247.20 Subd. 2. **Program.** (a) A public utility may file with the commission a program to

247.21 promote deployment of electric school buses.

247.22 (b) The program may include but is not limited to the following elements:

247.23 (1) a school district may purchase one or more electric school buses;

247.24 (2) the public utility may provide a rebate to the school district for the incremental cost

247.25 the school district incurs to purchase one or more electric school buses compared with

247.26 fossil-fuel-powered school buses;

247.27 (3) at the request of a school district, the public utility may deploy on the school district's

247.28 real property electric vehicle infrastructure required for charging electric school buses;

248.1        (4) for any electric school bus purchased by a school district with a rebate provided by  
248.2        the public utility, the school district must enter into a contract with the public utility under  
248.3        which the school district:

248.4        (i) accepts any and all liability for operation of the electric school bus;  
248.5        (ii) accepts responsibility to maintain and repair the electric school bus; and  
248.6        (iii) must allow the public utility the option to own the electric school bus's battery at  
248.7        the time the battery is retired from the electric school bus; and

248.8        (5) in collaboration with a school district, prioritize the deployment of electric school  
248.9        buses in areas of the school district that suffer from poor air quality.

248.10       Subd. 3. Program review and implementation. The commission must approve, modify,  
248.11       or reject a proposal for a program filed under this section within 180 days of the date the  
248.12       proposal is received, based on the proposal's likelihood to, through prudent and reasonable  
248.13       utility investments:

248.14       (1) accelerate deployment of electric school buses in the public utility's service territory,  
248.15       particularly in areas with poor air quality; and

248.16       (2) reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and particulates compared to those produced  
248.17       by fossil-fuel-powered school buses.

248.18       Subd. 4. Cost recovery. (a) The commission may allow any prudent and reasonable  
248.19       investment made by a public utility on electric vehicle infrastructure installed on a school  
248.20       district's real property, or a rebate provided under subdivision 2, to be placed in the public  
248.21       utility's rate base and earn a rate of return as determined by the commission.

248.22       (b) Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the commission may approve  
248.23       a tariff mechanism for the automatic annual adjustment of charges for prudent and reasonable  
248.24       investments made by a public utility to implement and administer a program approved by  
248.25       the commission under subdivision 3.

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

248.27       **Sec. 6. [216C.401] ELECTRIC VEHICLE REBATES.**

248.28       **Subdivision 1. Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section and section 216C.402, the  
248.29       terms in this subdivision have the meanings given.

248.30       (b) "Dealer" means a person, firm, or corporation that possesses a new motor vehicle  
248.31       license under chapter 168 and:

249.1 (1) regularly engages in the business of manufacturing or selling, purchasing, and  
249.2 generally dealing in new and unused motor vehicles;

249.3 (2) has an established place of business to sell, trade, and display new and unused motor  
249.4 vehicles; and

249.5 (3) possesses new and unused motor vehicles to sell or trade the motor vehicles.

249.6 (c) "Electric vehicle" means a passenger vehicle, as defined in section 169.011,  
249.7 subdivision 52, that is also an electric vehicle, as defined in section 169.011, subdivision  
249.8 26a, paragraph (a). Electric vehicle does not include a plug-in hybrid electric vehicle, as  
249.9 defined in section 169.011, subdivision 54a.

249.10 (d) "Eligible new electric vehicle" means an electric vehicle that meets the requirements  
249.11 of subdivision 2, paragraph (a).

249.12 (e) "Eligible used electric vehicle" means an electric vehicle that meets the requirements  
249.13 of subdivision 2, paragraph (c).

249.14 (f) "Lease" means a business transaction under which a dealer furnishes an eligible  
249.15 electric vehicle to a person for a fee under a bailor-bailee relationship where no incidences  
249.16 of ownership transferred, other than the right to use the vehicle for a term of at least 24  
249.17 months.

249.18 (g) "Lessee" means a person who leases an eligible electric vehicle from a dealer.

249.19 (h) "New eligible electric vehicle" means an eligible electric vehicle that has not been  
249.20 registered in any state.

249.21 Subd. 2. **Eligible vehicle.** (a) A new electric vehicle is eligible for a rebate under this  
249.22 section if the vehicle meets all of the following conditions, and, if applicable, one of the  
249.23 conditions of paragraph (b):

249.24 (1) has not been previously owned or has been returned to a dealer before the purchaser  
249.25 or lessee takes delivery, even if the electric vehicle is registered in Minnesota;

249.26 (2) has not been modified from the original manufacturer's specifications;

249.27 (3) has a base manufacturer's suggested retail price that does not exceed \$50,000;

249.28 (4) is purchased or leased after the effective date of this act for use by the purchaser and  
249.29 not for resale; and

249.30 (5) is purchased or leased from a dealer or directly from an original equipment  
249.31 manufacturer that does not have licensed franchised dealers in Minnesota.

250.1        (b) A new electric vehicle is eligible for a rebate under this section if, in addition to  
250.2        meeting all of the conditions of paragraph (a), it also meets one or more of the following  
250.3        conditions, if applicable:

250.4        (1) is used by a dealer as a floor model or test drive vehicle and has not been previously  
250.5        registered in Minnesota or any other state; or

250.6        (2) is returned to a dealer by a purchaser or lessee within two weeks of purchase or  
250.7        leasing or when a purchaser's financing for the new electric vehicle has been disapproved.

250.8        (c) A used electric vehicle is eligible for an electric vehicle rebate under this section if  
250.9        the electric vehicle has previously been owned in this state or another state and has not been  
250.10        modified from the original manufacturer's specifications.

250.11        Subd. 3. **Eligible purchaser or lessee.** A person who purchases or leases an eligible  
250.12        new or used electric vehicle is eligible for a rebate under this section if the purchaser or  
250.13        lessee:

250.14        (1) is one of the following:

250.15        (i) a resident of Minnesota, as defined in section 290.01, subdivision 7, paragraph (a),  
250.16        when the electric vehicle is purchased or leased;

250.17        (ii) a business that has a valid address in Minnesota from which business is conducted;

250.18        (iii) a nonprofit corporation incorporated under chapter 317A; or

250.19        (iv) a political subdivision of the state;

250.20        (2) has not received a rebate or tax credit for the purchase or lease of an electric vehicle  
250.21        from Minnesota; and

250.22        (3) registers the electric vehicle in Minnesota.

250.23        Subd. 4. **Rebate amounts.** (a) A \$2,000 rebate may be issued under this section to an  
250.24        eligible purchaser to purchase or lease an eligible new electric vehicle.

250.25        (b) A \$500 rebate may be issued under this section to an eligible purchaser or lessee of  
250.26        an eligible used electric vehicle.

250.27        (c) A purchaser or lessee whose household income at the time the eligible electric vehicle  
250.28        is purchased or leased is less than 150 percent of the current federal poverty guidelines  
250.29        established by the Department of Health and Human Services is eligible for a rebate in  
250.30        addition to a rebate under paragraph (a) or (b), as applicable, of \$500 to purchase or lease

251.1 an eligible new electric vehicle and \$100 to purchase or lease an eligible used electric  
251.2 vehicle.

251.3 Subd. 5. **Limits.** The number of rebates allowed under this section is limited to:

251.4 (1) no more than one rebate per resident per household; and

251.5 (2) no more than one rebate per business entity per year.

251.6 Subd. 6. **Program administration.** (a) Rebate applications under this section must be  
251.7 filed with the commissioner on a form developed by the commissioner.

251.8 (b) The commissioner must develop administrative procedures governing the application  
251.9 and rebate award process. Applications must be reviewed and rebates awarded by the  
251.10 commissioner on a first-come, first-served basis.

251.11 (c) The commissioner must, in coordination with dealers and other state agencies as  
251.12 applicable, develop a procedure to allow a rebate to be used by an eligible purchaser or  
251.13 lessee at the point of sale so that the rebate amount may be subtracted from the selling price  
251.14 of the eligible electric vehicle.

251.15 (d) The commissioner may reduce the rebate amounts provided under subdivision 4 or  
251.16 restrict program eligibility based on fund availability or other factors.

251.17 Subd. 7. **Expiration.** This section expires June 30, 2025.

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

251.19 Sec. 7. **[216C.402] GRANT PROGRAM; MANUFACTURERS' CERTIFICATION**  
**OF AUTO DEALERS TO SELL ELECTRIC VEHICLES.**

251.21 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** A grant program is established in the Department of  
251.22 Commerce to award grants to dealers to offset the costs of obtaining the necessary training  
251.23 and equipment that is required by electric vehicle manufacturers in order to certify a dealer  
251.24 to sell electric vehicles produced by the manufacturer.

251.25 Subd. 2. **Application.** An application for a grant under this section must be made to the  
251.26 commissioner on a form developed by the commissioner. The commissioner must develop  
251.27 administrative procedures and processes to review applications and award grants under this  
251.28 section.

251.29 Subd. 3. **Eligible applicants.** An applicant for a grant awarded under this section must  
251.30 be a dealer of new motor vehicles licensed under chapter 168 operating under a franchise  
251.31 from a manufacturer of electric vehicles.

252.1        Subd. 4. Eligible expenditures. Appropriations made to support the activities of this  
252.2        section must be used only to reimburse:

252.3        (1) a dealer for the reasonable costs to obtain training and certification for the dealer's  
252.4        employees from the electric vehicle manufacturer that awarded the franchise to the dealer;

252.5        (2) a dealer for the reasonable costs to purchase and install equipment to service and  
252.6        repair electric vehicles, as required by the electric vehicle manufacturer that awarded the  
252.7        franchise to the dealer; and

252.8        (3) the department for the reasonable costs to administer this section.

252.9        Subd. 5. Limitation. A grant awarded under this section to a single dealer must not  
252.10        exceed \$40,000.

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

252.12        Sec. 8. **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS; INSTALLATIONS IN**  
252.13        **STATE AND REGIONAL PARKS.**

252.14        Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
252.15        the meanings given.

252.16        (b) "DC Fast charger" means electric vehicle charging station equipment that transfers  
252.17        direct current electricity directly to an electric vehicle's battery.

252.18        (c) "Electric vehicle" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.011,  
252.19        subdivision 26a.

252.20        (d) "Electric vehicle charging station" means infrastructure that connects an electric  
252.21        vehicle to a Level 2 or DC Fast charger to recharge the electric vehicle's batteries.

252.22        (e) "Level 2 charger" means electric vehicle charging station equipment that transfers  
252.23        208- to 240-volt alternating current electricity to a device in an electric vehicle that converts  
252.24        alternating current to direct current to recharge an electric vehicle battery.

252.25        Subd. 2. Program. The commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with the  
252.26        commissioners of the Pollution Control Agency, administration, and commerce, must  
252.27        develop and fund the installation of a network of electric vehicle charging stations in  
252.28        Minnesota state parks located within the retail electric service area of a public utility subject  
252.29        to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1. The commissioners must issue a  
252.30        request for proposals to entities that have experience installing, owning, operating, and  
252.31        maintaining electric vehicle charging stations. The request for proposal must establish

253.1 technical specifications that electric vehicle charging stations are required to meet and must  
253.2 request responders to address:

253.3 (1) the optimal number and location of charging stations installed in a given state park;  
253.4 (2) alternative arrangements that may be made to allocate responsibility for electric  
253.5 vehicle charging station (i) ownership, operation, and maintenance, and (ii) billing  
253.6 procedures; and  
253.7 (3) any other issues deemed relevant by the commissioners.

253.8 Subd. 3. Deployment; regional parks. The commissioner of natural resources may  
253.9 allocate a portion of the appropriation under this section to install electric vehicle charging  
253.10 stations in regional parks located within the retail electric service area of a public utility  
253.11 that is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1.

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

253.13 Sec. 9. ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS; INSTALLATIONS AT  
253.14 COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTERS.

253.15 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
253.16 the meanings given.

253.17 (b) "DC Fast charger" means electric vehicle charging station equipment that transfers  
253.18 direct current electricity directly to an electric vehicle's battery.

253.19 (c) "Electric vehicle" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 169.011,  
253.20 subdivision 26a.

253.21 (d) "Electric vehicle charging station" means infrastructure that connects an electric  
253.22 vehicle to a Level 2 or DC Fast charger to recharge the electric vehicle's batteries.

253.23 (e) "Level 2 charger" means electric vehicle charging station equipment that transfers  
253.24 208- to 240-volt alternating current electricity to a device in an electric vehicle that converts  
253.25 alternating current to direct current to recharge an electric vehicle battery.

253.26 Subd. 2. Program. The commissioner of commerce must develop and fund the installation  
253.27 of a network of electric vehicle charging stations in public parking facilities at county  
253.28 government centers located in Minnesota. The commissioner must issue a request for  
253.29 proposals to entities that have experience installing, owning, operating, and maintaining  
253.30 electric vehicle charging stations. The request for proposal must establish technical  
253.31 specifications that electric vehicle charging stations are required to meet and must request  
253.32 responders to address:

254.1       (1) the optimal number and location of charging stations installed at each county  
254.2       government center;  
254.3       (2) alternative arrangements that may be made to allocate responsibility for electric  
254.4       vehicle charging station (i) ownership, operation, and maintenance, and (ii) billing  
254.5       procedures;  
254.6       (3) software used to allow payment for electricity consumed at the charging stations;  
254.7       and  
254.8       (4) any other issues deemed relevant by the commissioner.

254.9       Subd. 3. **County role.** (a) A county has a right of first refusal with respect to ownership  
254.10       of electric vehicle charging stations receiving funding under this section and installed at the  
254.11       county government center.  
254.12       (b) A county may enter into agreements to (1) wholly or partially own, operate, or  
254.13       maintain an electric vehicle charging system receiving funding under this section and  
254.14       installed at the county government center, or (2) receive reports on the electric vehicle  
254.15       charging system operations.

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

254.17       Sec. 10. **METROPOLITAN COUNCIL; ELECTRIC BUS PURCHASES.**

254.18       Beginning on the effective date of this act, any bus purchased by the Metropolitan  
254.19       Council for Metro Transit bus service must operate solely on electricity provided by  
254.20       rechargeable on-board batteries. The appropriation in section 11, subdivision 8, must be  
254.21       used to pay the incremental cost of buses that operate solely on electricity provided by  
254.22       rechargeable on-board batteries over the cost of diesel-operated buses that are otherwise  
254.23       comparable in size, features, and performance.

254.24       **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and  
254.25       expires the day after the appropriation under section 11, subdivision 8, has been spent or is  
254.26       canceled.

254.27       Sec. 11. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

254.28       Subdivision 1. **Electric vehicle rebates; Xcel service area.** Notwithstanding Minnesota  
254.29       Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$9,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and  
254.30       \$8,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account  
254.31       under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce

255.1 to award rebates to purchase or lease eligible electric vehicles under Minnesota Statutes,  
255.2 section 216C.401. Rebates must be awarded under this paragraph only to eligible purchasers  
255.3 located within the retail electric service area of the public utility that is subject to Minnesota  
255.4 Statutes, section 116C.779. These are onetime appropriations.

255.5 Subd. 2. **Electric vehicle rebates; non-Xcel service area.** \$2,500,000 in fiscal year  
255.6 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to award  
255.7 rebates to purchase or lease eligible electric vehicles under Minnesota Statutes, section  
255.8 216C.401. Rebates must be awarded under this paragraph only to eligible purchasers located  
255.9 outside the retail electric service area of the public utility that is subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
255.10 section 116C.779. The commissioner of commerce may use up to three percent of the  
255.11 appropriation made in this subdivision to pay for reasonable costs incurred to administer  
255.12 the rebate program. This is a onetime appropriation.

255.13 Subd. 3. **Auto dealer grants; Xcel service area.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
255.14 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated  
255.15 from the renewable development account under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
255.16 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce to award grants under Minnesota Statutes,  
255.17 section 216C.402, to automobile dealers seeking certification from an electric vehicle  
255.18 manufacturer to sell electric vehicles. Rebates must be awarded under this paragraph only  
255.19 to eligible dealers located within the retail electric service area of the public utility that is  
255.20 subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779. The commissioner of commerce may use  
255.21 up to three percent of the appropriation made in this subdivision to pay for reasonable costs  
255.22 incurred to administer the rebate program. This is a onetime appropriation.

255.23 Subd. 4. **Auto dealer grants; non-Xcel service area.** \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is  
255.24 appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to award grants under  
255.25 Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.402, to automobile dealers seeking certification to sell  
255.26 electric vehicles. Rebates must be awarded under this paragraph only to eligible dealers  
255.27 located outside the retail electric service area of the public utility that is subject to Minnesota  
255.28 Statutes, section 116C.779. This is a onetime appropriation.

255.29 Subd. 5. **Transportation electrification plan.** \$28,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$28,000  
255.30 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission  
255.31 for activities associated with the implementation of transportation electrification plans under  
255.32 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1615.

255.33 Subd. 6. **Electric school buses.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
255.34 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from

256.1 the renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
256.2 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce to purchase electric school buses under  
256.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1616. This is a onetime appropriation.

256.4 (b) \$30,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$30,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
256.5 the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for activities associated with the electric  
256.6 school bus deployment program under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.161. These are  
256.7 onetime appropriations.

256.8 (c) \$28,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$28,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
256.9 the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission for activities associated with the electric  
256.10 school bus deployment program under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.161. These are  
256.11 onetime appropriations.

256.12 Subd. 7. **Charging stations; parks.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
256.13 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$59,000 in fiscal  
256.14 year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established in Minnesota  
256.15 Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to  
256.16 the commissioner of natural resources to install electric vehicle charging stations in state  
256.17 and regional parks located in a county some portion of which is within the retail electric  
256.18 service area of the public utility subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision  
256.19 1, as described in section 8.

256.20 Subd. 8. **Charging stations; counties.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
256.21 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from  
256.22 the renewable development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
256.23 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce to install electric vehicle charging stations  
256.24 in parking facilities at county government centers located in a county some portion of which  
256.25 is within the retail electric service area of the public utility subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
256.26 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, as described in section 9. The commissioner of commerce  
256.27 may use up to three percent of the appropriation made in this subdivision to pay for  
256.28 reasonable costs incurred to administer the charging station installation program. This is a  
256.29 onetime appropriation.

256.30 Subd. 9. **Electric buses; Metropolitan Council.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
256.31 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated  
256.32 from the renewable development account under Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
256.33 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to the Metropolitan Council  
256.34 to defray the cost of purchasing electric buses, as described in section 10. This appropriation

257.1 does not cancel and is available until there is insufficient money remaining to completely  
257.2 defray the cost of purchasing one additional electric bus, as described in section 10. Any  
257.3 remaining money cancels back to the renewable development account under Minnesota  
257.4 Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1. This is a onetime appropriation.

## ARTICLE 11

### SOLAR ENERGY

257.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.164, is amended by adding a subdivision  
257.8 to read:

257.9 Subd. 12. Customer's access to electricity usage data. A utility shall provide a  
257.10 customer's electricity usage data to the customer within ten days of receipt of a request from  
257.11 the customer that is accompanied by evidence that the energy usage data is relevant to the  
257.12 interconnection of a qualifying facility on behalf of the customer. For the purposes of this  
257.13 subdivision, "electricity usage data" includes but is not limited to the total amount of  
257.14 electricity used by a customer monthly, usage by time period if the customer operates under  
257.15 a tariff where costs vary by time-of-use, and usage data that is used to calculate a customer's  
257.16 demand charge.

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

257.18 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.1641, is amended to read:

### **216B.1641 COMMUNITY SOLAR GARDEN.**

257.20 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
257.21 the meanings given.

257.22 (b) "Subscribed energy" means electricity generated by the community solar garden that  
257.23 is attributable to a subscriber's subscription.

257.24 (c) "Subscriber" means a retail customer who owns one or more subscriptions of a  
257.25 community solar garden interconnected with the retail customer's utility.

257.26 (d) "Subscription" means a contract between a subscriber and the owner of a solar garden.

257.27 Subd. 2. Solar garden; project requirements. (a) The public utility subject to section  
257.28 116C.779 shall file by September 30, 2013, a plan with the commission to operate a  
257.29 community solar garden program which shall begin operations within 90 days after  
257.30 commission approval of the plan. Other public utilities may file an application at their  
257.31 election. The community solar garden program must be designed to offset the energy use

258.1 of not less than five subscribers in each community solar garden facility of which no single  
258.2 subscriber has more than a 40 percent interest. The owner of the community solar garden  
258.3 may be a public utility or any other entity or organization that contracts to sell the output  
258.4 from the community solar garden to the utility under section 216B.164. There shall be no  
258.5 limitation on the number or cumulative generating capacity of community solar garden  
258.6 facilities other than the limitations imposed under section 216B.164, subdivision 4c, or  
258.7 other limitations provided in law or regulations.

258.8 (b) A solar garden is a facility that generates electricity by means of a ground-mounted  
258.9 or roof-mounted solar photovoltaic device whereby subscribers receive a bill credit for the  
258.10 electricity generated in proportion to the size of their subscription. The solar garden must  
258.11 have a nameplate capacity of no more than ~~one megawatt~~ three megawatts. Each subscription  
258.12 shall be sized to represent at least 200 watts of the community solar garden's generating  
258.13 capacity and to supply, when combined with other distributed generation resources serving  
258.14 the premises, no more than 120 percent of the average annual consumption of electricity  
258.15 by each subscriber at the premises to which the subscription is attributed.

258.16 (c) The solar generation facility must be located in the service territory of the public  
258.17 utility filing the plan. Subscribers must be retail customers of the public utility and, unless  
258.18 the facility has a minimum setback of 100 feet from the nearest residential property, must  
258.19 be located in the same county or a county contiguous to where the facility is located.

258.20 (d) The public utility must purchase from the community solar garden all energy generated  
258.21 by the solar garden. Unless specified elsewhere in this section, the purchase shall be at the  
258.22 most recent three-year average of the rate calculated under section 216B.164, subdivision  
258.23 10, or, until that rate for the public utility has been approved by the commission, the  
258.24 applicable retail rate. A public utility may only purchase energy generated by the solar  
258.25 garden at the rate calculated under section 216B.164, subdivision 10, if the owner of the  
258.26 community solar garden has certified to the utility that no child labor or slave labor was  
258.27 used to extract the materials that compose the community garden's solar panels. A solar  
258.28 garden is eligible for any incentive programs offered under section 116C.7792. A subscriber's  
258.29 portion of the purchase shall be provided by a credit on the subscriber's bill.

258.30 Subd. 3. **Solar garden plan; requirements; nonutility status.** (e) (a) The commission  
258.31 may approve, disapprove, or modify a community solar garden program plan. Any plan  
258.32 approved by the commission must:

258.33 (1) reasonably allow for the creation, financing, and accessibility of community solar  
258.34 gardens;

259.1 (2) establish uniform standards, fees, and processes for the interconnection of community  
259.2 solar garden facilities that allow the utility to recover reasonable interconnection costs for  
259.3 each community solar garden;

259.4 (3) not apply different requirements to utility and nonutility community solar garden  
259.5 facilities;

259.6 (4) be consistent with the public interest;

259.7 (5) identify the information that must be provided to potential subscribers to ensure fair  
259.8 disclosure of future costs and benefits of subscriptions;

259.9 (6) include a program implementation schedule;

259.10 (7) identify all proposed rules, fees, and charges; ~~and~~

259.11 (8) identify the means by which the program will be promoted; ;

259.12 (9) require that residential subscribers have a right to cancel a community solar garden  
259.13 subscription within three business days, as provided under section 325G.07;

259.14 (10) require that the following information is provided by the solar garden owner in  
259.15 writing to any prospective subscriber asked to make a prepayment to the solar garden owner  
259.16 prior to the delivery of subscribed energy by the solar garden:

259.17 (i) an estimate of the annual generation of subscribed energy, based on the methodology  
259.18 approved by the commission; and

259.19 (ii) an estimate of the length of time required to fully recover a subscriber's prepayments  
259.20 made to the owner of the solar garden prior to the delivery of subscribed energy, calculated  
259.21 using the formula developed by the commission under paragraph (d); and

259.22 (11) require new residential subscription agreements that require a prepayment to allow  
259.23 the subscriber to transfer the subscription to other new or current subscribers, or to cancel  
259.24 the subscription, on commercially reasonable terms; and

259.25 (12) require an owner of a solar garden to submit a report that meets the requirements  
259.26 of section 216C.51, subdivisions 3 and 4, each year the solar garden is in operation.

259.27 (f) (b) Notwithstanding any other law, neither the manager of nor the subscribers to a  
259.28 community solar garden facility shall be considered a utility solely as a result of their  
259.29 participation in the community solar garden facility.

259.30 (g) (c) Within 180 days of commission approval of a plan under this section, a utility  
259.31 shall begin crediting subscriber accounts for each community solar garden facility in its

260.1 service territory, and shall file with the commissioner of commerce a description of its  
260.2 crediting system.

260.3 ~~(h) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:~~

260.4 ~~(1) "subscriber" means a retail customer of a utility who owns one or more subscriptions~~  
260.5 ~~of a community solar garden facility interconnected with that utility; and~~

260.6 ~~(2) "subscription" means a contract between a subscriber and the owner of a solar garden.~~

260.7 **Subd. 4. Community access project; eligibility.** (a) An owner of a community solar  
260.8 garden may apply to the utility to be designated as a community access project at any time:

260.9 (1) before the owner makes an initial payment under an interconnection agreement  
260.10 entered into with a public utility; or

260.11 (2) if the owner made an initial payment under an interconnection agreement between  
260.12 January 1, 2021, and the effective date of this act, before commercial operation begins.

260.13 (b) The utility must designate a solar garden as a community access project if the owner  
260.14 of a solar garden commits in writing to meet the following conditions:

260.15 (1) at least 50 percent of the solar garden's generating capacity is subscribed by residential  
260.16 customers;

260.17 (2) the contract between the owner of the solar garden and the public utility that purchases  
260.18 the garden's electricity, and any agreement between the utility or owner of the solar garden  
260.19 and subscribers, states that the owner of the solar garden does not discriminate against or  
260.20 screen subscribers based on income or credit score and that any customer of a utility with  
260.21 a community solar garden plan approved by the commission under subdivision 3 is eligible  
260.22 to become a subscriber;

260.23 (3) the solar garden is operated by an entity that maintains a physical address in Minnesota  
260.24 and has designated a contact person in Minnesota who responds to subscriber inquiries; and

260.25 (4) the agreement between the owner of the solar garden and subscribers states that the  
260.26 owner must adequately publicize and convene at least one meeting annually to provide an  
260.27 opportunity for subscribers to pose questions to the manager or owner.

260.28 **Subd. 5. Community access project; financial arrangements.** (a) If a solar garden is  
260.29 approved by the utility as a community access project:

260.30 (1) the public utility purchasing the electricity generated by the community access project  
260.31 may charge the owner of the community access project no more than one cent per watt

261.1 alternating current based on the solar garden's generating capacity for any refundable deposit  
261.2 the utility requires of a solar garden during the application process;

261.3 (2) notwithstanding subdivision 2, paragraph (d), the public utility must purchase all  
261.4 energy generated by the community access project at the retail rate; and

261.5 (3) all renewable energy credits generated by the community access project belong to  
261.6 subscribers unless the owner of the solar garden:

261.7 (i) contracts to:  
261.8 (A) sell the credits to a third party; or  
261.9 (B) sell or transfer the credits to the utility; and

261.10 (ii) discloses a sale or transfer to subscribers at the time the subscribers enter into a  
261.11 subscription.

261.12 (b) If at any time after commercial operation begins a solar garden approved by the  
261.13 utility as a community access project fails to meet the conditions under subdivision 4, the  
261.14 solar garden is no longer subject to the provisions of this subdivision and subdivision 6,  
261.15 and must operate under the program rules established by the commission for a solar garden  
261.16 that does not qualify as a community access project.

261.17 (c) An owner of a solar garden whose designation as a community access project is  
261.18 revoked under this subdivision may reapply to the commission at any time to have the  
261.19 designation as a community access project reinstated under subdivision 4.

261.20 **Subd. 6. Community access project; reporting.** The owner of a community access  
261.21 project must include the following information in an annual report to the community access  
261.22 project subscribers and the utility:

261.23 (1) a description of the process by which subscribers can provide input to solar garden  
261.24 policy and decision making;

261.25 (2) the amount of revenues received by the solar garden in the previous year that were  
261.26 allocated to categories that include but are not limited to operating costs, debt service, profits  
261.27 distributed to subscribers, and profits distributed to others; and

261.28 (3) an estimate of the proportion of low- and moderate-income subscribers, and a  
261.29 description of one or more of the following methods used to make the estimate:

261.30 (i) evidence provided by a subscriber that the subscriber or a member of the subscriber's  
261.31 household receives assistance from any of the following sources:

262.1       (A) the federal Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program;

262.2       (B) federal Section 8 housing assistance;

262.3       (C) medical assistance;

262.4       (D) the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program; or

262.5       (E) the federal National School Lunch Program;

262.6       (ii) characterization of the census tract where the subscriber resides as low- or

262.7       moderate-income by the Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council; or

262.8       (iii) other methods approved by the commission.

262.9       **Subd. 7. Commission order.** Within 180 days of the effective date of this section, the

262.10       commission must issue an order addressing the requirements of this section.

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

262.12       **Sec. 3. [216C.375] SOLAR FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM.**

262.13       **Subdivision 1. Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section and section 216C.376,

262.14       the following terms have the meanings given.

262.15       (b) "Developer" means an entity that installs a solar energy system on a school building

262.16       that has been awarded a grant under this section.

262.17       (c) "Photovoltaic device" has the meaning given in section 216C.06, subdivision 16.

262.18       (d) "School" means a school that operates as part of an independent or special school

262.19       district.

262.20       (e) "School district" means an independent or special school district.

262.21       (f) "Solar energy system" means photovoltaic or solar thermal devices.

262.22       **Subd. 2. Establishment; purpose.** A solar for schools program is established in the

262.23       Department of Commerce. The purpose of the program is to (1) provide grants to stimulate

262.24       the installation of solar energy systems on or adjacent to school buildings by reducing the

262.25       cost, and (2) enable schools to use the solar energy system as a teaching tool that can be

262.26       integrated into the school's curriculum.

262.27       **Subd. 3. Establishment of account.** (a) A solar for schools program account is

262.28       established in the special revenue fund. Money received from the general fund must be

262.29       transferred to the commissioner of commerce and credited to the account. Money deposited

263.1 in the account remains in the account until expended and does not cancel to the general  
263.2 fund.

263.3 (b) When a grant is awarded under this section, the commissioner must reserve the grant  
263.4 amount in the account.

263.5 Subd. 4. **Expenditures.** (a) Money in the account must be used only:

263.6 (1) to award grants under this section; and

263.7 (2) to pay the reasonable costs incurred by the department to administer this section.

263.8 (b) Grant awards made with money in the account must be used only for grants for solar  
263.9 energy systems installed on or adjacent to school buildings receiving retail electric service  
263.10 from a utility that is not subject to section 116C.779, subdivision 1.

263.11 Subd. 5. **Eligible system.** (a) A grant may be awarded to a school under this section  
263.12 only if the solar energy system that is the subject of the grant:

263.13 (1) is installed on or adjacent to the school building that consumes the electricity generated  
263.14 by the solar energy system, on property within the service territory of the utility currently  
263.15 providing electric service to the school building; and

263.16 (2) has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the  
263.17 estimated annual electricity consumption of the school building at which the solar energy  
263.18 system is installed.

263.19 (b) A school district that receives a rebate or other financial incentive under section  
263.20 216B.241 for a solar energy system and that demonstrates considerable need for financial  
263.21 assistance, as determined by the commissioner, is eligible for a grant under this section for  
263.22 the same solar energy system.

263.23 Subd. 6. **Application process.** (a) The commissioner must issue a request for proposals  
263.24 to utilities, schools, and developers who may wish to apply for a grant under this section  
263.25 on behalf of a school.

263.26 (b) A utility or developer must submit an application to the commissioner on behalf of  
263.27 a school on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The form must include, at a minimum,  
263.28 the following information:

263.29 (1) the capacity of the proposed solar energy system and the amount of electricity that  
263.30 is expected to be generated;

263.31 (2) the current energy demand of the school building on which the solar energy generating  
263.32 system is to be installed, and information regarding any distributed energy resource, including

264.1 subscription to a community solar garden, that currently provides electricity to the school  
264.2 building;

264.3 (3) a description of any solar thermal devices proposed as part of the solar energy system;  
264.4 (4) the total cost to purchase and install the solar energy system and the solar energy  
264.5 system's life-cycle cost, including removal and disposal at the end of the system's life;  
264.6 (5) a copy of the proposed contract agreement between the school and the utility or  
264.7 developer that includes provisions addressing responsibility for maintenance of the solar  
264.8 energy system;

264.9 (6) the school's plan to make the solar energy system serve as a visible learning tool for  
264.10 students, teachers, and visitors to the school, including how the solar energy system may  
264.11 be integrated into the school's curriculum and provisions for real-time monitoring of the  
264.12 solar energy system performance for display in a prominent location in the school or  
264.13 on-demand in the classroom;

264.14 (7) information that demonstrates the school district's level of need for financial assistance  
264.15 available under this section;

264.16 (8) information that demonstrates the school's readiness to implement the project,  
264.17 including but not limited to the availability of the site on which the solar energy system is  
264.18 to be installed and the level of the school's engagement with the utility providing electric  
264.19 service to the school building on which the solar energy system is to be installed on issues  
264.20 relevant to the implementation of the project, including metering and other issues;

264.21 (9) with respect to the installation and operation of the solar energy system, the  
264.22 willingness and ability of the developer or the utility to:

264.23 (i) pay employees and contractors a prevailing wage rate, as defined in section 177.42,  
264.24 subdivision 6; and

264.25 (ii) adhere to the provisions of section 177.43;

264.26 (10) how the developer or utility plans to reduce the school's initial capital expense to  
264.27 purchase and install the solar energy system, and to provide financial benefits to the school  
264.28 from the utilization of federal and state tax credits, utility incentives, and other financial  
264.29 incentives; and

264.30 (11) any other information deemed relevant by the commissioner.

264.31 (c) The commissioner must administer an open application process under this section  
264.32 at least twice annually.

265.1        (d) The commissioner must develop administrative procedures governing the application  
265.2        and grant award process.

265.3        Subd. 7. **Energy conservation review.** At the commissioner's request, a school awarded  
265.4        a grant under this section shall provide the commissioner information regarding energy  
265.5        conservation measures implemented at the school building at which the solar energy system  
265.6        is installed. The commissioner may make recommendations to the school regarding  
265.7        cost-effective conservation measures it can implement and may provide technical assistance  
265.8        and direct the school to available financial assistance programs.

265.9        Subd. 8. **Technical assistance.** The commissioner must provide technical assistance to  
265.10        schools to develop and execute projects under this section.

265.11        Subd. 9. **Grant payments.** The commissioner must award a grant from the account  
265.12        established under subdivision 3 to a school for the necessary costs associated with the  
265.13        purchase and installation of a solar energy system. The amount of the grant must be based  
265.14        on the commissioner's assessment of the school's need for financial assistance.

265.15        Subd. 10. **Limitations.** (a) No more than 50 percent of the grant payments awarded to  
265.16        schools under this section may be awarded to schools where the proportion of students  
265.17        eligible for free and reduced-price lunch under the National School Lunch Program is less  
265.18        than 50 percent.

265.19        (b) No more than ten percent of the total amount of grants awarded under this section  
265.20        may be awarded to schools that are part of the same school district.

265.21        Subd. 11. **Application deadline.** No application may be submitted under this section  
265.22        after December 31, 2025.

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

265.24        **Sec. 4. [216C.376] SOLAR FOR SCHOOLS PROGRAM FOR CERTAIN UTILITY**  
265.25        **SERVICE TERRITORY.**

265.26        Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** The utility subject to section 116C.779 must  
265.27        operate a program to develop and to supplement with additional funding financial  
265.28        arrangements that enable schools to install and operate solar energy systems that can be  
265.29        used as teaching tools and integrated into the school curriculum.

265.30        Subd. 2. **Required plan.** (a) By October 1, 2021, the public utility must file a plan for  
265.31        the solar for schools program with the commissioner. The plan must contain, at a minimum,  
265.32        the following elements:

266.1       (1) a description of how the public utility proposes to utilize funds appropriated to the  
266.2       program to assist schools to install solar energy systems;

266.3       (2) an estimate of the amount of financial assistance that the public utility proposes to  
266.4       provide to a school, on a per kilowatt-hour produced basis, and the length of time the public  
266.5       utility estimates financial assistance is provided to a school;

266.6       (3) administrative procedures governing the application and financial benefit award  
266.7       process, and the costs the public utility is projected to incur to administer the program;

266.8       (4) the public utility's proposed process for periodic reevaluation and modification of  
266.9       the program; and

266.10       (5) any additional information required by the commissioner.

266.11       (b) The public utility may not implement the program until the commissioner approves  
266.12       the public utility's plan submitted under this subdivision. The commissioner may modify a  
266.13       plan, and no later than December 31, 2021, the commissioner must approve a plan and the  
266.14       financial incentives the plan provides the public utility if the commissioner determines both  
266.15       are in the public interest. Any proposed modifications to the plan approved under this  
266.16       subdivision must be approved by the commissioner.

266.17       **Subd. 3. System eligibility.** A solar energy system is eligible to receive financial benefits  
266.18       under this section if the solar energy system meets all of the following conditions:

266.19       (1) the solar energy system must be located on or adjacent to a school building receiving  
266.20       retail electric service from the public utility and completely located within the public utility's  
266.21       electric service territory, provided that any land situated between the school building and  
266.22       the site where the solar energy system is installed is owned by the school district in which  
266.23       the school building operates; and

266.24       (2) the total aggregate nameplate capacity of all distributed generation serving the school  
266.25       building, including any subscriptions to a community solar garden under section 216B.1641,  
266.26       does not exceed the lesser of one megawatt alternating current or 120 percent of the average  
266.27       annual electric energy consumption of the school building.

266.28       **Subd. 4. Application process.** (a) A school seeking financial assistance under this section  
266.29       must submit an application to the public utility, including a plan for how the school uses  
266.30       the solar energy system as a visible learning tool for students, teachers, and visitors to the  
266.31       school, and how the solar energy system may be integrated into the school's curriculum.

266.32       (b) The public utility must award financial assistance under this section on a first-come,  
266.33       first-served basis.

267.1        (c) The public utility must discontinue accepting applications under this section after  
267.2        all funds appropriated to the program are allocated to program participants, including funds  
267.3        from canceled projects.

267.4        Subd. 5. Benefits information. Before signing an agreement with the public utility to  
267.5        receive financial assistance under this section, a school must obtain from the developer and  
267.6        provide to the public utility information the developer shared with potential investors in the  
267.7        project regarding future financial benefits to be realized from installation of a solar energy  
267.8        system at the school and potential financial risks.

267.9        Subd. 6. Cost recovery; renewable energy credits. (a) Payments by the public utility  
267.10        to a school receiving financial assistance under this section are fully recoverable by the  
267.11        public utility through the public utility's fuel clause adjustment.

267.12        (b) The renewable energy credits associated with the electricity generated by a solar  
267.13        energy system receiving financial assistance under this section are the property of the public  
267.14        utility that is subject to this section.

267.15        Subd. 7. Limitation. (a) No more than 50 percent of the financial assistance provided  
267.16        by the public utility to schools under this section may be provided to schools where the  
267.17        proportion of students eligible for free and reduced-price lunch under the National School  
267.18        Lunch Program is less than 50 percent.

267.19        (b) No more than ten percent of the total amount of financial assistance provided by the  
267.20        public utility to schools under this section may be provided to schools that are part of the  
267.21        same school district.

267.22        Subd. 8. Technical assistance. The commissioner must provide technical assistance to  
267.23        schools to develop and execute projects under this section.

267.24        Subd. 9. Application deadline. No application may be submitted under this section  
267.25        after December 31, 2025.

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

267.27        Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216E.01, subdivision 9a, is amended to read:

267.28        Subd. 9a. Solar energy generating system. "Solar energy generating system" means a  
267.29        set of devices whose primary purpose is to produce electricity by means of any combination  
267.30        of collecting, transferring, or converting solar-generated energy, and may include  
267.31        transmission lines designed for and capable of operating at 100 kilovolts or less that  
267.32        interconnect a solar energy generating system with a high voltage transmission line.

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

268.2 **Sec. 6. [500.216] LIMITS ON CERTAIN RESIDENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY**

268.3 **SYSTEMS PROHIBITED.**

268.4 **Subdivision 1. General rule.** A private entity must not prohibit or refuse to permit  
268.5 installation, maintenance, or use of a roof-mounted solar energy system by the owner of a  
268.6 single-family dwelling, notwithstanding any covenant, restriction, or condition contained  
268.7 in a deed, security instrument, homeowners association document, or any other instrument  
268.8 affecting the transfer, sale of, or an interest in real property, except as provided in this  
268.9 section.

268.10 **Subd. 2. Applicability.** This section applies to single-family detached dwellings whose  
268.11 owner is the sole owner of the entire building in which the dwelling is located and who is  
268.12 solely responsible for the maintenance, repair, replacement, and insurance of the entire  
268.13 building.

268.14 **Subd. 3. Definitions.** (a) The definitions in this subdivision apply to this section.

268.15 (b) "Private entity" means a homeowners association, community association, or other  
268.16 association that is subject to a homeowners association document.

268.17 (c) "Homeowners association document" means a document containing the declaration,  
268.18 articles of incorporation, bylaws, or rules and regulations of:

268.19 (1) a common interest community, as defined in section 515B.1-103, regardless of  
268.20 whether the common interest community is subject to chapter 515B; and

268.21 (2) a residential community that is not a common interest community.

268.22 (d) "Solar energy system" has the meaning given in section 216C.06, subdivision 17.

268.23 **Subd. 4. Allowable conditions.** (a) This section does not prohibit a private entity from  
268.24 requiring that:

268.25 (1) a licensed contractor install a solar energy system;

268.26 (2) a roof-mounted solar energy system not extend above the peak of a pitched roof or  
268.27 beyond the edge of the roof;

268.28 (3) the owner or installer of a solar energy system indemnify or reimburse the private  
268.29 entity or the private entity's members for loss or damage caused by the installation,  
268.30 maintenance, use, repair, or removal of a solar energy system;

269.1 (4) the owner and each successive owner of a solar energy system list the private entity  
269.2 as a certificate holder on the homeowner's insurance policy; or

269.3 (5) the owner and each successive owner of a solar energy system be responsible for  
269.4 removing the system if reasonably necessary for the repair, maintenance, or replacement  
269.5 of common elements or limited common elements, as defined in section 515B.1-103.

269.6 (b) A private entity may impose other reasonable restrictions on the installation,  
269.7 maintenance, or use of solar energy systems, provided that those restrictions do not decrease  
269.8 the projected generation of energy by a solar energy system by more than 20 percent or  
269.9 increase the solar energy system's cost by more than (1) 20 percent for a solar water heater,  
269.10 or (2) \$2,000 for a solar photovoltaic system, compared with the generation of energy and  
269.11 the cost of labor and materials certified by the designer or installer of the solar energy system  
269.12 as originally proposed without the restrictions. A private entity may obtain an alternative  
269.13 bid and design from a solar energy system designer or installer for the purposes of this  
269.14 paragraph.

269.15 (c) A solar energy system must meet applicable standards and requirements imposed by  
269.16 the state and by governmental units, as defined in section 462.384.

269.17 (d) A solar energy system for heating water must be certified by the Solar Rating  
269.18 Certification Corporation (SRCC) or an equivalent certification agency. A solar energy  
269.19 system for producing electricity must meet all applicable safety and performance standards  
269.20 established by the National Electrical Code, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics  
269.21 Engineers and accredited testing laboratories including but not limited to Underwriters  
269.22 Laboratories and, where applicable, rules of the Public Utilities Commission regarding  
269.23 safety and reliability.

269.24 (e) If approval by a private entity is required to install or use a solar energy system, the  
269.25 application for approval must be processed and approved in the same manner as an  
269.26 application for approval of an architectural modification to the property, and must not be  
269.27 willfully avoided or delayed.

269.28 (f) An application for approval must be made in writing and must contain certification  
269.29 that the applicant meets any conditions required by a private entity under this subdivision.  
269.30 An application must include a copy of the interconnection application submitted to the  
269.31 applicable electric utility.

269.32 (g) A private entity shall approve or deny an application in writing. If an application is  
269.33 not denied in writing within 60 days from the date of receipt of the application, the application  
269.34 is deemed approved unless the delay is the result of a reasonable request for additional

270.1 information. If a private entity receives an incomplete application that it determines prevents  
270.2 it from reaching a decision to approve or disapprove the application, a new 60-day limit  
270.3 begins only if the private entity sends written notice to the applicant, within 15 business  
270.4 days of receiving the incomplete application, informing the applicant what additional  
270.5 information is required.

270.6 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 515.07, is amended to read:

270.7 **515.07 COMPLIANCE WITH COVENANTS, BYLAWS, AND RULES.**

270.8 Each apartment owner shall comply strictly with the bylaws and with the administrative  
270.9 rules adopted pursuant thereto, as either of the same may be lawfully amended from time  
270.10 to time, and with the covenants, conditions, and restrictions set forth in the declaration or  
270.11 in the owner's deed to the apartment. Failure to comply with any of the same shall be ground  
270.12 for an action to recover sums due, for damages or injunctive relief or both maintainable by  
270.13 the manager or board of directors on behalf of the association of apartment owners or, in a  
270.14 proper case, by an aggrieved apartment owner. This chapter is subject to section sections  
270.15 500.215 and 500.216.

270.16 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 515B.2-103, is amended to read:

270.17 **515B.2-103 CONSTRUCTION AND VALIDITY OF DECLARATION AND**

270.18 **BYLAWS.**

270.19 (a) All provisions of the declaration and bylaws are severable.

270.20 (b) The rule against perpetuities may not be applied to defeat any provision of the  
270.21 declaration or this chapter, or any instrument executed pursuant to the declaration or this  
270.22 chapter.

270.23 (c) In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the declaration and the bylaws,  
270.24 the declaration prevails except to the extent that the declaration is inconsistent with this  
270.25 chapter.

270.26 (d) The declaration and bylaws must comply with section sections 500.215 and 500.216.

270.27 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 515B.3-102, is amended to read:

270.28 **515B.3-102 POWERS OF UNIT OWNERS' ASSOCIATION.**

270.29 (a) Except as provided in subsections (b), (c), (d), and (e), and subject to the provisions  
270.30 of the declaration or bylaws, the association shall have the power to:

271.1       (1) adopt, amend and revoke rules and regulations not inconsistent with the articles of  
271.2 incorporation, bylaws and declaration, as follows: (i) regulating the use of the common  
271.3 elements; (ii) regulating the use of the units, and conduct of unit occupants, which may  
271.4 jeopardize the health, safety or welfare of other occupants, which involves noise or other  
271.5 disturbing activity, or which may damage the common elements or other units; (iii) regulating  
271.6 or prohibiting animals; (iv) regulating changes in the appearance of the common elements  
271.7 and conduct which may damage the common interest community; (v) regulating the exterior  
271.8 appearance of the common interest community, including, for example, balconies and patios,  
271.9 window treatments, and signs and other displays, regardless of whether inside a unit; (vi)  
271.10 implementing the articles of incorporation, declaration and bylaws, and exercising the  
271.11 powers granted by this section; and (vii) otherwise facilitating the operation of the common  
271.12 interest community;

271.13       (2) adopt and amend budgets for revenues, expenditures and reserves, and levy and  
271.14 collect assessments for common expenses from unit owners;

271.15       (3) hire and discharge managing agents and other employees, agents, and independent  
271.16 contractors;

271.17       (4) institute, defend, or intervene in litigation or administrative proceedings (i) in its  
271.18 own name on behalf of itself or two or more unit owners on matters affecting the common  
271.19 elements or other matters affecting the common interest community or, (ii) with the consent  
271.20 of the owners of the affected units on matters affecting only those units;

271.21       (5) make contracts and incur liabilities;

271.22       (6) regulate the use, maintenance, repair, replacement, and modification of the common  
271.23 elements and the units;

271.24       (7) cause improvements to be made as a part of the common elements, and, in the case  
271.25 of a cooperative, the units;

271.26       (8) acquire, hold, encumber, and convey in its own name any right, title, or interest to  
271.27 real estate or personal property, but (i) common elements in a condominium or planned  
271.28 community may be conveyed or subjected to a security interest only pursuant to section  
271.29 515B.3-112, or (ii) part of a cooperative may be conveyed, or all or part of a cooperative  
271.30 may be subjected to a security interest, only pursuant to section 515B.3-112;

271.31       (9) grant or amend easements for public utilities, public rights-of-way or other public  
271.32 purposes, and cable television or other communications, through, over or under the common  
271.33 elements; grant or amend easements, leases, or licenses to unit owners for purposes authorized

272.1 by the declaration; and, subject to approval by a vote of unit owners other than declarant  
272.2 or its affiliates, grant or amend other easements, leases, and licenses through, over or under  
272.3 the common elements;

272.4 (10) impose and receive any payments, fees, or charges for the use, rental, or operation  
272.5 of the common elements, other than limited common elements, and for services provided  
272.6 to unit owners;

272.7 (11) impose interest and late charges for late payment of assessments and, after notice  
272.8 and an opportunity to be heard before the board or a committee appointed by it, levy  
272.9 reasonable fines for violations of the declaration, bylaws, and rules and regulations of the  
272.10 association;

272.11 (12) impose reasonable charges for the review, preparation and recordation of  
272.12 amendments to the declaration, resale certificates required by section 515B.4-107, statements  
272.13 of unpaid assessments, or furnishing copies of association records;

272.14 (13) provide for the indemnification of its officers and directors, and maintain directors'  
272.15 and officers' liability insurance;

272.16 (14) provide for reasonable procedures governing the conduct of meetings and election  
272.17 of directors;

272.18 (15) exercise any other powers conferred by law, or by the declaration, articles of  
272.19 incorporation or bylaws; and

272.20 (16) exercise any other powers necessary and proper for the governance and operation  
272.21 of the association.

272.22 (b) Notwithstanding subsection (a) the declaration or bylaws may not impose limitations  
272.23 on the power of the association to deal with the declarant which are more restrictive than  
272.24 the limitations imposed on the power of the association to deal with other persons.

272.25 (c) Notwithstanding subsection (a), powers exercised under this section must comply  
272.26 with section sections 500.215 and 500.216.

272.27 (d) Notwithstanding subsection (a)(4) or any other provision of this chapter, the  
272.28 association, before instituting litigation or arbitration involving construction defect claims  
272.29 against a development party, shall:

272.30 (1) mail or deliver written notice of the anticipated commencement of the action to each  
272.31 unit owner at the addresses, if any, established for notices to owners in the declaration and,  
272.32 if the declaration does not state how notices are to be given to owners, to the owner's last

273.1 known address. The notice shall specify the nature of the construction defect claims to be  
273.2 alleged, the relief sought, and the manner in which the association proposes to fund the cost  
273.3 of pursuing the construction defect claims; and

273.4 (2) obtain the approval of owners of units to which a majority of the total votes in the  
273.5 association are allocated. Votes allocated to units owned by the declarant, an affiliate of the  
273.6 declarant, or a mortgagee who obtained ownership of the unit through a foreclosure sale  
273.7 are excluded. The association may obtain the required approval by a vote at an annual or  
273.8 special meeting of the members or, if authorized by the statute under which the association  
273.9 is created and taken in compliance with that statute, by a vote of the members taken by  
273.10 electronic means or mailed ballots. If the association holds a meeting and voting by electronic  
273.11 means or mailed ballots is authorized by that statute, the association shall also provide for  
273.12 voting by those methods. Section 515B.3-110(c) applies to votes taken by electronic means  
273.13 or mailed ballots, except that the votes must be used in combination with the vote taken at  
273.14 a meeting and are not in lieu of holding a meeting, if a meeting is held, and are considered  
273.15 for purposes of determining whether a quorum was present. Proxies may not be used for a  
273.16 vote taken under this paragraph unless the unit owner executes the proxy after receipt of  
273.17 the notice required under subsection (d)(1) and the proxy expressly references this notice.

273.18 (e) The association may intervene in a litigation or arbitration involving a construction  
273.19 defect claim or assert a construction defect claim as a counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party  
273.20 claim before complying with subsections (d)(1) and (d)(2) but the association's complaint  
273.21 in an intervention, counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party claim shall be dismissed without  
273.22 prejudice unless the association has complied with the requirements of subsection (d) within  
273.23 90 days of the association's commencement of the complaint in an intervention or the  
273.24 assertion of the counterclaim, crossclaim, or third-party claim.

273.25 **Sec. 10. PHOTOVOLTAIC DEMAND CREDIT RIDER.**

273.26 By October 1, 2021, an investor-owned utility that has not already done so must submit  
273.27 to the Public Utilities Commission a photovoltaic demand credit rider that reimburses all  
273.28 demand metered customers with solar photovoltaic systems greater than 40 kilowatts  
273.29 alternating current for the demand charge overbilling that occurs. The utility may submit  
273.30 to the commission multiple options to calculate reimbursement for demand charge overbilling.  
273.31 At least one submission must use a capacity value stack methodology. The commission is  
273.32 prohibited from approving a photovoltaic demand credit rider unless the rider allows  
273.33 stand-alone photovoltaic systems and photovoltaic systems coupled with storage. The  
273.34 commission must approve the photovoltaic demand credit rider by June 30, 2022.

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

274.2 **Sec. 11. SITING SOLAR ENERGY GENERATING SYSTEMS ON PRIME**  
274.3 **FARMLAND.**

274.4 (a) The Public Utilities Commission must amend Minnesota Rules, section 7850.4400,  
274.5 subpart 4, to allow the siting of a solar energy generating system on prime farmland that  
274.6 meets any of the following conditions:

274.7 (1) the site has been identified as a sensitive groundwater area by the Department of  
274.8 Natural Resources under Minnesota Statutes, section 103H.101;

274.9 (2) the owner of the solar energy generating system has entered into an agreement with  
274.10 the Board of Soil and Water Resources committing the owner to comply with the provisions  
274.11 of Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.1642, by establishing on the site perennial vegetation  
274.12 and foraging habitat beneficial to game birds, songbirds, and pollinators, and to report to  
274.13 the board every three years on progress made toward establishing beneficial habitat; or

274.14 (3) the solar energy generating system is colocated with and does not disrupt the operation  
274.15 of agricultural uses, including but not limited to grazing and harvesting forage.

274.16 (b) The commission shall comply with Minnesota Statutes, section 14.389, in adopting  
274.17 rules under this section.

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

274.19 **Sec. 12. DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION; MASTER SOLAR CONTRACT**  
274.20 **PROGRAM.**

274.21 The Department of Administration shall not extend the term of its current on-site solar  
274.22 photovoltaic master contract, but shall instead, no later than February 1, 2022, announce  
274.23 an open request for proposals for a new statewide on-site solar photovoltaic master contract  
274.24 to allow additional applicants to submit proposals to enable their participation in the state's  
274.25 solar master contract program.

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

274.27 **Sec. 13. APPROPRIATIONS.**

274.28 Subdivision 1. Solar on schools; non-Xcel service territory. \$1,737,000 in fiscal year  
274.29 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce to provide  
274.30 financial assistance to schools to purchase and install solar energy generating systems under  
274.31 Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.375. This appropriation remains available until expended

275.1 and does not cancel to the general fund. This appropriation must be expended on schools  
275.2 located outside the electric service territory of the public utility that is subject to Minnesota  
275.3 Statutes, section 116C.779. The base in fiscal year 2024 is \$388,000.

275.4 **Subd. 2. Solar on schools; Xcel service territory.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
275.5 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$5,000,000  
275.6 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established  
275.7 in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce  
275.8 to provide financial assistance to schools to purchase and install solar energy generating  
275.9 systems under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.376. This appropriation remains available  
275.10 until expended and does not cancel to the renewable development account. This appropriation  
275.11 must be expended on schools located within the electric service territory of the public utility  
275.12 that is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779. These are onetime appropriations.

275.13 **Subd. 3. Solar devices; state parks.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
275.14 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from  
275.15 the renewable development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
275.16 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to the commissioner of natural  
275.17 resources to install solar photovoltaic devices in state parks located within the retail electric  
275.18 service area of a public utility subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision  
275.19 1. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2023. This is a onetime appropriation.

275.20 **Subd. 4. Solar devices; state buildings.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
275.21 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from  
275.22 the renewable development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779,  
275.23 subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to the commissioner of  
275.24 administration to install solar photovoltaic devices on state-owned buildings that are located  
275.25 within the retail electric service area of the public utility subject to Minnesota Statutes,  
275.26 section 116C.779, subdivision 1.

275.27 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph  
275.28 (j), \$59,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$38,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the  
275.29 renewable development account to the commissioner of administration for costs to administer  
275.30 the installation of solar photovoltaic devices on state-owned buildings that are located within  
275.31 the retail electric service area of the public utility subject to Minnesota Statutes, section  
275.32 116C.779, subdivision 1.

275.33 **Subd. 5. Solar on prime farmland.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section  
275.34 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$14,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$14,000 in fiscal

276.1 year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established under  
276.2 Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for  
276.3 transfer to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for activities associated with installing  
276.4 solar energy generating systems on prime farmland, as described in section 6.

276.5 (b) \$46,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the Public  
276.6 Utilities Commission for activities associated with installing solar energy systems on prime  
276.7 farmland, as described in section 6. This is a onetime appropriation.

276.8 Subd. 6. Mountain Iron solar plant expansion. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
276.9 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$5,500,000 in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated  
276.10 from the renewable development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section  
276.11 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of employment and economic development  
276.12 for a grant to the Mountain Iron Economic Development Authority to expand a city-owned  
276.13 solar module manufacturing plant building in the city's Renewable Energy Industrial Park.  
276.14 This is a onetime appropriation. Any unexpended funds remaining as of June 30, 2022,  
276.15 must be returned to the renewable development account under Minnesota Statutes, section  
276.16 116C.779, subdivision 1.

276.17 Subd. 7. Northfield distribution system upgrades. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
276.18 section 116C. 779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$550,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated  
276.19 from the renewable development account established in Minnesota Statutes, section  
276.20 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to the public utility  
276.21 that is subject to Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to upgrade the utility's  
276.22 distribution system in and bordering on the city of Northfield to enable the interconnection  
276.23 of additional customer-sited solar deployment. No later than October 15, 2021, the public  
276.24 utility that is to receive the transferred funds must submit a report to the commissioner of  
276.25 commerce, the Public Utilities Commission, and to the chairs and ranking minority members  
276.26 of the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy policy  
276.27 and finance describing how the utility proposes to utilize the transfer made under this  
276.28 subdivision, including the specific locations identified for additional equipment installation,  
276.29 the nature of the equipment, and the amount of incremental capacity that results from the  
276.30 installation of the equipment. The commissioner must not transfer the funds appropriated  
276.31 under this subdivision to the public utility until the commissioner and the Public Utilities  
276.32 Commission have reviewed and approved the report.

277.1

**ARTICLE 12**

277.2

**ENERGY MISCELLANEOUS**

277.3 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 115B.40, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

277.4 **Subdivision 1. Response to releases.** The commissioner may take any environmental  
277.5 response action, including emergency action, related to a release or threatened release of a  
277.6 hazardous substance, pollutant or contaminant, or decomposition gas from a qualified facility  
277.7 that the commissioner deems reasonable and necessary to protect the public health or welfare  
277.8 or the environment under the standards required in sections 115B.01 to 115B.20. The  
277.9 commissioner may undertake studies necessary to determine reasonable and necessary  
277.10 environmental response actions at individual facilities. The commissioner may develop  
277.11 general work plans for environmental studies, presumptive remedies, and generic remedial  
277.12 designs for facilities with similar characteristics, as well as implement reuse and  
277.13 redevelopment strategies. Prior to selecting environmental response actions for a facility,  
277.14 the commissioner shall hold at least one public informational meeting near the facility and  
277.15 provide for receiving and responding to comments related to the selection. The commissioner  
277.16 shall design, implement, and provide oversight consistent with the actions selected under  
277.17 this subdivision.

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

277.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

277.20 **Subdivision 1. Renewable development account.** (a) The renewable development  
277.21 account is established as a separate account in the special revenue fund in the state treasury.  
277.22 Appropriations and transfers to the account shall be credited to the account. Earnings, such  
277.23 as interest, dividends, and any other earnings arising from assets of the account, shall be  
277.24 credited to the account. Funds remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year are not  
277.25 canceled to the general fund but remain in the account until expended. The account shall  
277.26 be administered by the commissioner of management and budget as provided under this  
277.27 section.

277.28 (b) On July 1, 2017, the public utility that owns the Prairie Island nuclear generating  
277.29 plant must transfer all funds in the renewable development account previously established  
277.30 under this subdivision and managed by the public utility to the renewable development  
277.31 account established in paragraph (a). Funds awarded to grantees in previous grant cycles  
277.32 that have not yet been expended and unencumbered funds required to be paid in calendar

278.1 year 2017 under paragraphs (f) and (g), and sections 116C.7792 and 216C.41, are not subject  
278.2 to transfer under this paragraph.

278.3 (c) Except as provided in subdivision 1a, beginning January 15, 2018, and continuing  
278.4 each January 15 thereafter, the public utility that owns the Prairie Island nuclear generating  
278.5 plant must transfer to the renewable development account \$500,000 each year for each dry  
278.6 cask containing spent fuel that is located at the Prairie Island power plant for each year the  
278.7 plant is in operation, and \$7,500,000 each year the plant is not in operation if ordered by  
278.8 the commission pursuant to paragraph (i). The fund transfer must be made if nuclear waste  
278.9 is stored in a dry cask at the independent spent-fuel storage facility at Prairie Island for any  
278.10 part of a year.

278.11 (d) Except as provided in subdivision 1a, beginning January 15, 2018, and continuing  
278.12 each January 15 thereafter, the public utility that owns the Monticello nuclear generating  
278.13 plant must transfer to the renewable development account \$350,000 each year for each dry  
278.14 cask containing spent fuel that is located at the Monticello nuclear power plant for each  
278.15 year the plant is in operation, and \$5,250,000 each year the plant is not in operation if ordered  
278.16 by the commission pursuant to paragraph (i). The fund transfer must be made if nuclear  
278.17 waste is stored in a dry cask at the independent spent-fuel storage facility at Monticello for  
278.18 any part of a year.

278.19 (e) Each year, the public utility shall withhold from the funds transferred to the renewable  
278.20 development account under paragraphs (c) and (d) the amount necessary to pay its obligations  
278.21 under paragraphs (f) and (g), and sections 116C.7792 and 216C.41, for that calendar year.

278.22 (f) If the commission approves a new or amended power purchase agreement, the  
278.23 termination of a power purchase agreement, or the purchase and closure of a facility under  
278.24 section 216B.2424, subdivision 9, with an entity that uses poultry litter to generate electricity,  
278.25 the public utility subject to this section shall enter into a contract with the city in which the  
278.26 poultry litter plant is located to provide grants to the city for the purposes of economic  
278.27 development on the following schedule: \$4,000,000 in fiscal year 2018; \$6,500,000 each  
278.28 fiscal year in 2019 and 2020; and \$3,000,000 in fiscal year 2021. The grants shall be paid  
278.29 by the public utility from funds withheld from the transfer to the renewable development  
278.30 account, as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e).

278.31 (g) If the commission approves a new or amended power purchase agreement, or the  
278.32 termination of a power purchase agreement under section 216B.2424, subdivision 9, with  
278.33 an entity owned or controlled, directly or indirectly, by two municipal utilities located north  
278.34 of Constitutional Route No. 8, that was previously used to meet the biomass mandate in

279.1 section 216B.2424, the public utility that owns a nuclear generating plant shall enter into a  
279.2 grant contract with such entity to provide \$6,800,000 per year for five years, commencing  
279.3 30 days after the commission approves the new or amended power purchase agreement, or  
279.4 the termination of the power purchase agreement, and on each June 1 thereafter through  
279.5 2021, to assist the transition required by the new, amended, or terminated power purchase  
279.6 agreement. The grant shall be paid by the public utility from funds withheld from the transfer  
279.7 to the renewable development account as provided in paragraphs (b) and (e).

279.8 (h) The collective amount paid under the grant contracts awarded under paragraphs (f)  
279.9 and (g) is limited to the amount deposited into the renewable development account, and its  
279.10 predecessor, the renewable development account, established under this section, that was  
279.11 not required to be deposited into the account under Laws 1994, chapter 641, article 1, section  
279.12 10.

279.13 (i) After discontinuation of operation of the Prairie Island nuclear plant or the Monticello  
279.14 nuclear plant and each year spent nuclear fuel is stored in dry cask at the discontinued  
279.15 facility, the commission shall require the public utility to pay \$7,500,000 for the discontinued  
279.16 Prairie Island facility and \$5,250,000 for the discontinued Monticello facility for any year  
279.17 in which the commission finds, by the preponderance of the evidence, that the public utility  
279.18 did not make a good faith effort to remove the spent nuclear fuel stored at the facility to a  
279.19 permanent or interim storage site out of the state. This determination shall be made at least  
279.20 every two years.

279.21 (j) Funds in the account may be expended only for any of the following purposes:

279.22 (1) to stimulate research and development of renewable electric energy technologies;  
279.23 (2) to encourage grid modernization, including, but not limited to, projects that implement  
279.24 electricity storage, load control, and smart meter technology; and  
279.25 (3) to stimulate other innovative energy projects that reduce demand and increase system  
279.26 efficiency and flexibility.

279.27 Expenditures from the fund must benefit Minnesota ratepayers receiving electric service  
279.28 from the utility that owns a nuclear-powered electric generating plant in this state or the  
279.29 Prairie Island Indian community or its members.

279.30 The utility that owns a nuclear generating plant is eligible to apply for grants under this  
279.31 subdivision.

279.32 (k) For the purposes of paragraph (j), the following terms have the meanings given:

280.1 (1) "renewable" has the meaning given in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph  
280.2 (c), clauses (1), (2), (4), and (5); and

280.3 (2) "grid modernization" means:

280.4 (i) enhancing the reliability of the electrical grid;

280.5 (ii) improving the security of the electrical grid against cyberthreats and physical threats;

280.6 and

280.7 (iii) increasing energy conservation opportunities by facilitating communication between  
280.8 the utility and its customers through the use of two-way meters, control technologies, energy  
280.9 storage and microgrids, technologies to enable demand response, and other innovative  
280.10 technologies.

280.11 (l) A renewable development account advisory group that includes, among others,  
280.12 representatives of the public utility and its ratepayers, and includes at least one representative  
280.13 of the Prairie Island Indian community appointed by that community's Tribal council, shall  
280.14 develop recommendations on account expenditures. The advisory group must design a  
280.15 request for proposal and evaluate projects submitted in response to a request for proposals.

280.16 The advisory group must utilize an independent third-party expert to evaluate proposals  
280.17 submitted in response to a request for proposal, including all proposals made by the public  
280.18 utility. A request for proposal for research and development under paragraph (j), clause (1),  
280.19 may be limited to or include a request to higher education institutions located in Minnesota  
280.20 for multiple projects authorized under paragraph (j), clause (1). The request for multiple  
280.21 projects may include a provision that exempts the projects from the third-party expert review  
280.22 and instead provides for project evaluation and selection by a merit peer review grant system.

280.23 In the process of determining request for proposal scope and subject and in evaluating  
280.24 responses to request for proposals, the advisory group must strongly consider, where  
280.25 reasonable,:

280.26 (1) potential benefit to Minnesota citizens and businesses and the utility's ratepayers; and

280.28 (2) the proposer's commitment to increasing the diversity of the proposer's workforce  
280.29 and vendors.

280.30 (m) The advisory group shall submit funding recommendations to the public utility,  
280.31 which has full and sole authority to determine which expenditures shall be submitted by  
280.32 the advisory group to the legislature. The commission may approve proposed expenditures,  
280.33 may disapprove proposed expenditures that it finds not to be in compliance with this

281.1 subdivision or otherwise not in the public interest, and may, if agreed to by the public utility,  
281.2 modify proposed expenditures. The commission shall, by order, submit its funding  
281.3 recommendations to the legislature as provided under paragraph (n).

281.4 (n) The commission shall present its recommended appropriations from the account to  
281.5 the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy policy and  
281.6 finance annually by February 15 following any year in which the commission has acted on  
281.7 recommendations submitted by the advisory group and the public utility. Expenditures from  
281.8 the account must be appropriated by law. In enacting appropriations from the account, the  
281.9 legislature:

281.10 (1) may approve or disapprove, but may not modify, the amount of an appropriation for  
281.11 a project recommended by the commission; and

281.12 (2) may not appropriate money for a project the commission has not recommended  
281.13 funding.

281.14 (o) A request for proposal for renewable energy generation projects must, when feasible  
281.15 and reasonable, give preference to projects that are most cost-effective for a particular energy  
281.16 source.

281.17 (p) The advisory group must annually, by February 15, report to the chairs and ranking  
281.18 minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over energy policy on  
281.19 projects funded by the account for the prior year and all previous years. The report must,  
281.20 to the extent possible and reasonable, itemize the actual and projected financial benefit to  
281.21 the public utility's ratepayers of each project.

281.22 (q) By February 1, 2018, and each February 1 thereafter, the commissioner of  
281.23 management and budget shall submit a written report regarding the availability of funds in  
281.24 and obligations of the account to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate  
281.25 and house committees with jurisdiction over energy policy and finance, the public utility,  
281.26 and the advisory group.

281.27 (r) A project receiving funds from the account must produce a written final report that  
281.28 includes sufficient detail for technical readers and a clearly written summary for nontechnical  
281.29 readers. The report must include an evaluation of the project's financial, environmental, and  
281.30 other benefits to the state and the public utility's ratepayers. A project receiving funds from  
281.31 the account must submit a report that meets the requirements of section 216C.51, subdivisions  
281.32 3 and 4, each year the project funded by the account is in progress.

282.1        (s) Final reports, any mid-project status reports, and renewable development account  
282.2 financial reports must be posted online on a public website designated by the commissioner  
282.3 of commerce.

282.4        (t) All final reports must acknowledge that the project was made possible in whole or  
282.5 part by the Minnesota renewable development account, noting that the account is financed  
282.6 by the public utility's ratepayers.

282.7        (u) Of the amount in the renewable development account, priority must be given to  
282.8 making the payments required under section 216C.417.

282.9        Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.096, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

282.10        Subd. 2. **Definitions.** (a) The terms used in this section have the meanings given them  
282.11 in this subdivision.

282.12        (b) "Cold weather period" means the period from October 15 1 through April 15 30 of  
282.13 the following year.

282.14        (c) "Customer" means a residential customer of a utility.

282.15        (d) "Disconnection" means the involuntary loss of utility heating service as a result of  
282.16 a physical act by a utility to discontinue service. Disconnection includes installation of a  
282.17 service or load limiter or any device that limits or interrupts utility service in any way.

282.18        (e) "Household income" means the combined income, as defined in section 290A.03,  
282.19 subdivision 3, of all residents of the customer's household, computed on an annual basis.  
282.20 Household income does not include any amount received for energy assistance.

282.21        (f) "Reasonably timely payment" means payment within five working days of agreed-upon  
282.22 due dates.

282.23        (g) "Reconnection" means the restoration of utility heating service after it has been  
282.24 disconnected.

282.25        (h) "Summary of rights and responsibilities" means a commission-approved notice that  
282.26 contains, at a minimum, the following:

- 282.27        (1) an explanation of the provisions of subdivision 5;
- 282.28        (2) an explanation of no-cost and low-cost methods to reduce the consumption of energy;
- 282.29        (3) a third-party notice;
- 282.30        (4) ways to avoid disconnection;

283.1       (5) information regarding payment agreements;  
283.2       (6) an explanation of the customer's right to appeal a determination of income by the  
283.3       utility and the right to appeal if the utility and the customer cannot arrive at a mutually  
283.4       acceptable payment agreement; and

283.5       (7) a list of names and telephone numbers for county and local energy assistance and  
283.6       weatherization providers in each county served by the utility.

283.7       (i) "Third-party notice" means a commission-approved notice containing, at a minimum,  
283.8       the following information:

283.9       (1) a statement that the utility will send a copy of any future notice of proposed  
283.10      disconnection of utility heating service to a third party designated by the residential customer;

283.11      (2) instructions on how to request this service; and

283.12      (3) a statement that the residential customer should contact the person the customer  
283.13      intends to designate as the third-party contact before providing the utility with the party's  
283.14      name.

283.15       (j) "Utility" means a public utility as defined in section 216B.02, and a cooperative  
283.16      electric association electing to be a public utility under section 216B.026. Utility also means  
283.17      a municipally owned gas or electric utility for nonresident consumers of the municipally  
283.18      owned utility and a cooperative electric association when a complaint in connection with  
283.19      utility heating service during the cold weather period is filed under section 216B.17,  
283.20      subdivision 6 or 6a.

283.21       (k) "Utility heating service" means natural gas or electricity used as a primary heating  
283.22      source, including electricity service necessary to operate gas heating equipment, for the  
283.23      customer's primary residence.

283.24       (l) "Working days" means Mondays through Fridays, excluding legal holidays. The day  
283.25      of receipt of a personally served notice and the day of mailing of a notice shall not be counted  
283.26      in calculating working days.

283.27      Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.096, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

283.28      Subd. 3. **Utility obligations before cold weather period.** Each year, between ~~September~~  
283.29      August 15 and October ~~15~~1, each utility must provide all customers, personally, by first  
283.30      class mail, or electronically for those requesting electronic billing, a summary of rights and  
283.31      responsibilities. The summary must also be provided to all new residential customers when  
283.32      service is initiated.

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

284.2 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.097, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

284.3 **Subdivision 1. Application; notice to residential customer.** (a) A municipal utility or  
284.4 a cooperative electric association must not disconnect and must reconnect the utility service  
284.5 of a residential customer during the period between October 15 1 and April 15 30 if the  
284.6 disconnection affects the primary heat source for the residential unit and all of the following  
284.7 conditions are met:

284.8 (1) The household income of the customer is at or below 50 percent of the state median  
284.9 household income. A municipal utility or cooperative electric association utility may (i)  
284.10 verify income on forms it provides or (ii) obtain verification of income from the local energy  
284.11 assistance provider. A customer is deemed to meet the income requirements of this clause  
284.12 if the customer receives any form of public assistance, including energy assistance, that  
284.13 uses an income eligibility threshold set at or below 50 percent of the state median household  
284.14 income.

284.15 (2) A customer enters into and makes reasonably timely payments under a payment  
284.16 agreement that considers the financial resources of the household.

284.17 (3) A customer receives referrals to energy assistance, weatherization, conservation, or  
284.18 other programs likely to reduce the customer's energy bills.

284.19 (b) A municipal utility or a cooperative electric association must, between August 15  
284.20 and October 15 1 each year, notify all residential customers of the provisions of this section.

284.21 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.097, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

284.22 **Subd. 2. Notice to residential customer facing disconnection.** Before disconnecting  
284.23 service to a residential customer during the period between October 15 1 and April 15 30,  
284.24 a municipal utility or cooperative electric association must provide the following information  
284.25 to a customer:

284.26 (1) a notice of proposed disconnection;  
284.27 (2) a statement explaining the customer's rights and responsibilities;  
284.28 (3) a list of local energy assistance providers;  
284.29 (4) forms on which to declare inability to pay; and  
284.30 (5) a statement explaining available time payment plans and other opportunities to secure  
284.31 continued utility service.

285.1 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.097, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

285.2 Subd. 3. **Restrictions if disconnection necessary.** (a) If a residential customer must be  
285.3 involuntarily disconnected between October 15 1 and April 15 30 for failure to comply with  
285.4 subdivision 1, the disconnection must not occur:

285.5 (1) on a Friday, unless the customer declines to enter into a payment agreement offered  
285.6 that day in person or via personal contact by telephone by a municipal utility or cooperative  
285.7 electric association;

285.8 (2) on a weekend, holiday, or the day before a holiday;

285.9 (3) when utility offices are closed; or

285.10 (4) after the close of business on a day when disconnection is permitted, unless a field  
285.11 representative of a municipal utility or cooperative electric association who is authorized  
285.12 to enter into a payment agreement, accept payment, and continue service, offers a payment  
285.13 agreement to the customer.

285.14 Further, the disconnection must not occur until at least 20 days after the notice required  
285.15 in subdivision 2 has been mailed to the customer or 15 days after the notice has been  
285.16 personally delivered to the customer.

285.17 (b) If a customer does not respond to a disconnection notice, the customer must not be  
285.18 disconnected until the utility investigates whether the residential unit is actually occupied.  
285.19 If the unit is found to be occupied, the utility must immediately inform the occupant of the  
285.20 provisions of this section. If the unit is unoccupied, the utility must give seven days' written  
285.21 notice of the proposed disconnection to the local energy assistance provider before making  
285.22 a disconnection.

285.23 (c) If, prior to disconnection, a customer appeals a notice of involuntary disconnection,  
285.24 as provided by the utility's established appeal procedure, the utility must not disconnect  
285.25 until the appeal is resolved.

285.26 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.164, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

285.27 Subd. 4. **Purchases; wheeling; costs.** (a) Except as otherwise provided in paragraph  
285.28 (c), this subdivision shall apply to all qualifying facilities having 40-kilowatt capacity or  
285.29 more as well as qualifying facilities as defined in subdivision 3 and net metered facilities  
285.30 under subdivision 3a, if interconnected to a cooperative electric association or municipal  
285.31 utility, or 1,000-kilowatt capacity or more if interconnected to a public utility, which elect  
285.32 to be governed by its provisions.

286.1       (b) The utility to which the qualifying facility is interconnected shall purchase all energy  
286.2 and capacity made available by the qualifying facility. The qualifying facility shall be paid  
286.3 the utility's full avoided capacity and energy costs as negotiated by the parties, as set by the  
286.4 commission, or as determined through competitive bidding approved by the commission.  
286.5 ~~The full avoided capacity and energy costs to be paid a qualifying facility that generates~~  
286.6 ~~electric power by means of a renewable energy source are the utility's least cost renewable~~  
286.7 ~~energy facility or the bid of a competing supplier of a least cost renewable energy facility,~~  
286.8 ~~whichever is lower, unless the commission's resource plan order, under section 216B.2422,~~  
286.9 ~~subdivision 2, provides that the use of a renewable resource to meet the identified capacity~~  
286.10 ~~need is not in the public interest.~~

286.11       (c) For all qualifying facilities having 30-kilowatt capacity or more, the utility shall, at  
286.12 the qualifying facility's or the utility's request, provide wheeling or exchange agreements  
286.13 wherever practicable to sell the qualifying facility's output to any other Minnesota utility  
286.14 having generation expansion anticipated or planned for the ensuing ten years. The  
286.15 commission shall establish the methods and procedures to insure that except for reasonable  
286.16 wheeling charges and line losses, the qualifying facility receives the full avoided energy  
286.17 and capacity costs of the utility ultimately receiving the output.

286.18       (d) The commission shall set rates for electricity generated by renewable energy.

286.19       Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2424, is amended by adding a subdivision  
286.20 to read:

286.21       Subd. 5b. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of subdivision 5c, the following terms have  
286.22 the meanings given.

286.23       (b) "Agreement period" means the period beginning January 1, 2023, and ending  
286.24 December 31, 2024.

286.25       (c) "Ash" means all species of the genus *Fraxinus*.

286.26       (d) "Cogeneration facility" means the St. Paul district heating and cooling system  
286.27 cogeneration facility that uses waste wood as the facility's primary fuel source, provides  
286.28 thermal energy to St. Paul, and sells electricity to a public utility through a power purchase  
286.29 agreement approved by the Public Utilities Commission.

286.30       (e) "Department" means the Department of Agriculture.

286.31       (f) "Emerald ash borer" means the insect known as emerald ash borer, *Agrilus planipennis*  
286.32 Fairmaire, in any stage of development.

287.1        (g) "Renewable energy technology" has the meaning given to "eligible energy technology"  
287.2        in section 216B.1691, subdivision 1.

287.3        (h) "St. Paul district heating and cooling system" means a system of boilers, distribution  
287.4        pipes, and other equipment that provides energy for heating and cooling in St. Paul, and  
287.5        includes the cogeneration facility.

287.6        (i) "Waste wood from ash trees" means ash logs and lumber, ash tree waste, and ash  
287.7        chips and mulch.

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

287.9        Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.2424, is amended by adding a subdivision  
287.10        to read:

287.11        Subd. 5c. **New power purchase agreement.** (a) No later than August 1, 2021, a public  
287.12        utility subject to subdivision 5 and the cogeneration facility may file a proposal with the  
287.13        commission to enter into a power purchase agreement that governs the public utility's  
287.14        purchase of electricity generated by the cogeneration facility. The power purchase agreement  
287.15        may extend no later than December 31, 2024, and must not be extended beyond that date  
287.16        except as provided in paragraph (f).

287.17        (b) The commission is prohibited from approving a new power purchase agreement filed  
287.18        under this subdivision that does not meet all of the following conditions:

287.19        (1) the cogeneration facility agrees that any waste wood from ash trees removed from  
287.20        Minnesota counties that have been designated as quarantined areas in Section IV of the  
287.21        Minnesota State Formal Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer, issued by the commissioner of  
287.22        agriculture under section 18G.06, effective November 14, 2019, as amended, for utilization  
287.23        as biomass fuel by the cogeneration facility must be accompanied by evidence:

287.24        (i) demonstrating that the transport of biomass fuel from processed waste wood from  
287.25        ash trees to the cogeneration facility complies with the department's regulatory requirements  
287.26        under the Minnesota State Formal Quarantine for Emerald Ash Borer, which may consist  
287.27        of:

287.28        (A) a certificate authorized or prepared by the commissioner of agriculture or an employee  
287.29        of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service of the United States Department of  
287.30        Agriculture verifying compliance; or

287.31        (B) shipping documents demonstrating compliance; or

288.1        (ii) certifying that the waste wood from ash trees has been chipped to one inch or less  
288.2        in two dimensions, and was chipped within the county from which the ash trees were  
288.3        originally removed;

288.4        (2) the price per megawatt hour of electricity paid by the public utility demonstrates  
288.5        significant savings compared to the existing power purchase agreement, with a price that  
288.6        does not exceed \$98 per megawatt hour;

288.7        (3) the proposal includes a proposal to the commission for one or more electrification  
288.8        projects that result in the St. Paul district heating and cooling system being powered by  
288.9        electricity generated from renewable energy technologies. The plan must evaluate  
288.10        electrification at three or more levels from ten to 100 percent, including 100 percent of the  
288.11        energy used by the St. Paul district heating and cooling system to be implemented by  
288.12        December 31, 2027. The proposal may also evaluate alternative dates for implementation.

288.13        For each level of electrification analyzed, the proposal must contain:

288.14        (i) a description of the alternative electrification technologies evaluated and whose  
288.15        implementation is proposed as part of the electrification project;

288.16        (ii) an estimate of the cost of the electrification project to the public utility, the impact  
288.17        on the monthly energy bills of the public utility's Minnesota customers, and the impact on  
288.18        the monthly energy bills of St. Paul district heating and cooling system customers;

288.19        (iii) an estimate of the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions resulting from the  
288.20        electrification project, including greenhouse gas emissions associated with the transportation  
288.21        of waste wood;

288.22        (iv) estimated impacts on the operations of the St. Paul district heating and cooling  
288.23        system; and

288.24        (v) a timeline for the electrification project; and

288.25        (4) the power purchase agreement provides a net benefit to the utility customers or the  
288.26        state.

288.27        (c) The commission may approve, or approve as modified, a proposed electrification  
288.28        project that meets the requirements of this subdivision if it finds the electrification project  
288.29        is in the public interest, or the commission may reject the project if it finds that the project  
288.30        is not in the public interest. When determining whether an electrification project is in the  
288.31        public interest, the commission may consider the effects of the electrification project on air  
288.32        emissions from the St. Paul district heating and cooling system and how the emissions  
288.33        impact the environment and residents of affected neighborhoods.

289.1 (d) During the agreement period, the cogeneration facility must attempt to obtain funding  
289.2 to reduce the cost of generating electricity and enable the facility to continue to operate  
289.3 beyond the agreement period to address the removal of ash trees, as described in paragraph  
289.4 (b), clause (1), without any subsidy or contribution from any power purchase agreement  
289.5 after December 31, 2024. The cogeneration facility must submit periodic reports to the  
289.6 commission regarding the efforts made under this paragraph.

289.7 (e) Upon approval of the new power purchase agreement, the commission must require  
289.8 periodic reporting regarding progress toward development of a proposal for an electrification  
289.9 project.

289.10 (f) The commission is prohibited from approving either an extension of an existing  
289.11 power purchase agreement or a new power purchase agreement that operates after the  
289.12 agreement period unless it approves an electrification project. Nothing in this section requires  
289.13 any utility to enter into a power purchase agreement with the cogeneration facility after  
289.14 December 31, 2024.

289.15 (g) Upon approval of an electrification project, the commission must require periodic  
289.16 reporting regarding the progress toward implementation of the electrification project.

289.17 (h) If the commission approves the proposal submitted under paragraph (b), clause (3),  
289.18 the commission may allow the public utility to recover prudently incurred costs net of  
289.19 revenues resulting from the electrification project through an automatic cost recovery  
289.20 mechanism that allows for cost recovery outside of a general rate case. The cost recovery  
289.21 mechanism approved by the commission must:

289.22 (1) allow a reasonable return on the capital invested in the electrification project by the  
289.23 public utility, as determined by the commission; and

289.24 (2) recover costs only from the public utility's Minnesota electric service customers.

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

289.26 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.243, subdivision 8, is amended to read:

289.27 Subd. 8. **Exemptions.** (a) This section does not apply to:

289.28 (1) cogeneration or small power production facilities as defined in the Federal Power  
289.29 Act, United States Code, title 16, section 796, paragraph (17), subparagraph (A), and  
289.30 paragraph (18), subparagraph (A), and having a combined capacity at a single site of less  
289.31 than 80,000 kilowatts; plants or facilities for the production of ethanol or fuel alcohol; or

290.1 any case where the commission has determined after being advised by the attorney general  
290.2 that its application has been preempted by federal law;

290.3 (2) a high-voltage transmission line proposed primarily to distribute electricity to serve  
290.4 the demand of a single customer at a single location, unless the applicant opts to request  
290.5 that the commission determine need under this section or section 216B.2425;

290.6 (3) the upgrade to a higher voltage of an existing transmission line that serves the demand  
290.7 of a single customer that primarily uses existing rights-of-way, unless the applicant opts to  
290.8 request that the commission determine need under this section or section 216B.2425;

290.9 (4) a high-voltage transmission line of one mile or less required to connect a new or  
290.10 upgraded substation to an existing, new, or upgraded high-voltage transmission line;

290.11 (5) conversion of the fuel source of an existing electric generating plant to using natural  
290.12 gas;

290.13 (6) the modification of an existing electric generating plant to increase efficiency, as  
290.14 long as the capacity of the plant is not increased more than ten percent or more than 100  
290.15 megawatts, whichever is greater;

290.16 (7) a large wind energy conversion system, as defined in section 216F.01, subdivision  
290.17 2, or a solar electric energy generation facility system, as defined in section 216E.01,  
290.18 subdivision 9a, if the system or facility is owned and operated by an independent power  
290.19 producer and the electric output of the system or facility:

290.20 (i) is not sold to an entity that provides retail service in Minnesota or wholesale electric  
290.21 service to another entity in Minnesota other than an entity that is a federally recognized  
290.22 regional transmission organization or independent system operator; or

290.23 (ii) is sold to an entity that provides retail service in Minnesota or wholesale electric  
290.24 service to another entity in Minnesota other than an entity that is a federally recognized  
290.25 regional transmission organization or independent system operator, provided that the system  
290.26 represents solar or wind capacity that the entity purchasing the system's electric output was  
290.27 ordered by the commission to develop in the entity's most recent integrated resource plan  
290.28 approved under section 216B.2422; or

290.29 (8) a large wind energy conversion system, as defined in section 216F.01, subdivision  
290.30 2, or a solar energy generating large energy facility, as defined in section 216B.2421,  
290.31 subdivision 2, engaging in a repowering project that:

290.32 (i) will not result in the facility exceeding the nameplate capacity under its most recent  
290.33 interconnection agreement; or

291.1       (ii) will result in the facility exceeding the nameplate capacity under its most recent  
291.2       interconnection agreement, provided that the Midcontinent Independent System Operator  
291.3       has provided a signed generator interconnection agreement that reflects the expected net  
291.4       power increase.

291.5       (b) For the purpose of this subdivision, "repowering project" means:

291.6       (1) modifying a large wind energy conversion system or a solar energy generating large  
291.7       energy facility to increase its efficiency without increasing its nameplate capacity;

291.8       (2) replacing turbines in a large wind energy conversion system without increasing the  
291.9       nameplate capacity of the system; or

291.10       (3) increasing the nameplate capacity of a large wind energy conversion system.

291.11       Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.62, subdivision 3b, is amended to read:

291.12       **Subd. 3b. Assessment for department regional and national duties.** In addition to  
291.13       other assessments in subdivision 3, the department may assess up to \$500,000 per fiscal  
291.14       year for performing its duties under section 216A.07, subdivision 3a. The amount in this  
291.15       subdivision shall be assessed to energy utilities in proportion to their respective gross  
291.16       operating revenues from retail sales of gas or electric service within the state during the last  
291.17       calendar year and shall be deposited into an account in the special revenue fund and is  
291.18       appropriated to the commissioner of commerce for the purposes of section 216A.07,  
291.19       subdivision 3a. An assessment made under this subdivision is not subject to the cap on  
291.20       assessments provided in subdivision 3 or any other law. For the purpose of this subdivision,  
291.21       an "energy utility" means public utilities, generation and transmission cooperative electric  
291.22       associations, and municipal power agencies providing natural gas or electric service in the  
291.23       state. ~~This subdivision expires June 30, 2021.~~

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

291.25       Sec. 13. **[216B.631] COMPENSATION FOR PARTICIPANTS IN PROCEEDINGS.**

291.26       Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
291.27       the meaning given.

291.28       (b) "Participant" means a person who meets the requirements of subdivision 2 and who:

291.29       (1) files comments or appears in a commission proceeding, other than public hearings,  
291.30       concerning one or more public utilities; or

292.1 (2) is permitted by the commission to intervene in a commission proceeding concerning  
292.2 one or more public utilities; and

292.3 (3) files a request for compensation under this section.

292.4 (c) "Proceeding" means an undertaking of the commission in which it seeks to resolve  
292.5 an issue affecting one or more public utilities and which results in a commission order.

292.6 (d) "Public utility" has the meaning given in section 216B.02, subdivision 4.

292.7 **Subd. 2. Participants; eligibility.** Any of the following participants is eligible to receive  
292.8 compensation under this section:

292.9 (1) a nonprofit organization that is:

292.10 (i) exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the United States Internal Revenue  
292.11 Code;

292.12 (ii) incorporated in Minnesota; and

292.13 (iii) governed under chapter 317A;

292.14 (2) a Tribal government of a federally recognized Indian Tribe that is located in  
292.15 Minnesota; or

292.16 (3) a Minnesota resident, except that an individual who owns a for-profit business that  
292.17 has earned revenue from a Minnesota utility in the past two years is not eligible for  
292.18 compensation.

292.19 **Subd. 3. Compensation; conditions.** (a) The commission may order a public utility to  
292.20 compensate all or part of an eligible participant's reasonable costs of participation in a  
292.21 proceeding that comes before the commission when the commission finds that the participant  
292.22 has materially assisted the commission's deliberation.

292.23 (b) In determining whether a participant has materially assisted the commission's  
292.24 deliberation, the commission must find that:

292.25 (1) the participant made a unique contribution to the record and represented an interest  
292.26 that would not otherwise have been adequately represented;

292.27 (2) the evidence or arguments presented or the positions taken by the participant were  
292.28 an important factor in producing a fair decision;

292.29 (3) the participant's position promoted a public purpose or policy;

292.30 (4) the evidence presented, arguments made, issues raised, or positions taken by the  
292.31 participant would not otherwise have been a part of the record;

293.1        (5) the participant was active in any stakeholder process made part of the proceeding;

293.2        and

293.3        (6) the proceeding resulted in a commission order that adopted, in whole or in part, a  
293.4        position advocated by the participant.

293.5        (c) In reviewing a compensation request, the commission must consider whether the  
293.6        costs presented in the participant's claim are reasonable.

293.7        Subd. 4. Compensation; amount. (a) Compensation must not exceed \$50,000 for a  
293.8        single participant in any proceeding, except that:

293.9        (1) if a proceeding extends longer than 12 months, a participant may request compensation  
293.10        of up to \$50,000 for costs incurred in each calendar year; and

293.11        (2) in a general rate case proceeding under section 216B.16 or an integrated resource  
293.12        plan proceeding under section 216B.2422, the maximum single participant compensation  
293.13        must not exceed \$75,000.

293.14        (b) A single participant must not be granted more than \$200,000 under this section in a  
293.15        single calendar year.

293.16        (c) Compensation requests from joint participants must be presented as a single request.

293.17        (d) Notwithstanding paragraphs (a) and (b), the commission must not, in any calendar  
293.18        year, require a single public utility to pay aggregate compensation under this section that  
293.19        exceeds the following amounts:

293.20        (1) \$100,000, for a public utility with up to \$300,000,000 annual gross operating revenue  
293.21        in Minnesota;

293.22        (2) \$275,000, for a public utility with more than \$300,000,000 but less than \$900,000,000  
293.23        annual gross operating revenue in Minnesota;

293.24        (3) \$375,000, for a public utility with more than \$900,000,000 but less than  
293.25        \$2,000,000,000 annual gross operating revenue in Minnesota; and

293.26        (4) \$1,250,000, for a public utility with more than \$2,000,000,000 annual gross operating  
293.27        revenue in Minnesota.

293.28        (e) When requests for compensation from any public utility approach the limits established  
293.29        in paragraph (d), the commission may prioritize requests from participants that received  
293.30        less than \$150,000 in total compensation during the previous two years.

294.1        **Subd. 5. Compensation; process.** (a) A participant seeking compensation must file a  
294.2        request and an affidavit of service with the commission, and serve a copy of the request on  
294.3        each party to the proceeding. The request must be filed no more than 30 days after the later  
294.4        of: (1) the expiration of the period within which a petition for rehearing, amendment,  
294.5        vacation, reconsideration, or reargument must be filed; or (2) the date the commission issues  
294.6        an order following rehearing, amendment, vacation, reconsideration, or reargument.

294.7        (b) A compensation request must include:

294.8        (1) the name and address of the participant or nonprofit organization the participant is  
294.9        representing;

294.10        (2) evidence of the organization's nonprofit, tax-exempt status;

294.11        (3) the name and docket number of the proceeding for which compensation is requested;

294.12        (4) a list of actual annual revenue secured and expenses incurred for participation in  
294.13        commission proceedings separately for the preceding and current year, and projected revenue,  
294.14        revenue sources, and expenses for participation in commission proceedings for the current  
294.15        year;

294.16        (5) amounts of compensation awarded to the participant under this section during the  
294.17        current year and any pending requests for compensation, by docket;

294.18        (6) an itemization of the participant's costs, including hours worked and associated hourly  
294.19        rates for each individual contributing to the participation, not including overhead costs,  
294.20        participant revenues for the proceeding, and the total compensation request; and

294.21        (7) a narrative describing the unique contribution made to the proceeding by the  
294.22        participant.

294.23        (c) A participant shall comply with reasonable requests for information by the commission  
294.24        and other participants. A participant shall reply to information requests within ten calendar  
294.25        days of the date the request is received, unless this would place an extreme hardship upon  
294.26        the replying participant. The replying participant must provide a copy of the information  
294.27        to any other participant or interested person upon request. Disputes regarding information  
294.28        requests may be resolved by the commission.

294.29        (d) Within 30 days after service of the request for compensation, a party may file a  
294.30        response, together with an affidavit of service, with the commission. A copy of the response  
294.31        must be served on the requesting participant and all other parties to the proceeding.

295.1        (e) Within 15 days after the response is filed, the participant may file a reply with the  
295.2        commission. A copy of the reply and an affidavit of service must be served on all other  
295.3        parties to the proceeding.

295.4        (f) If additional costs are incurred by a participant as a result of additional proceedings  
295.5        following the commission's initial order, the participant may file an amended request within  
295.6        30 days after the commission issues an amended order. Paragraphs (b) to (e) apply to an  
295.7        amended request.

295.8        (g) The commission must issue a decision on participant compensation within 60 days  
295.9        of the date a request for compensation is filed by a participant.

295.10       (h) The commission may extend the deadlines in paragraphs (d), (e), and (g) for up to  
295.11       60 days upon the request of a participant or on the commission's own initiative, if applicable.

295.12       (i) A participant may request reconsideration of the commission's compensation decision  
295.13       within 30 days of the decision date.

295.14       **Subd. 6. Compensation; orders.** (a) If the commission issues an order requiring payment  
295.15       of participant compensation, the public utility that was the subject of the proceeding must  
295.16       pay the compensation to the participant and file proof of payment with the commission  
295.17       within 30 days after the later of: (1) the expiration of the period within which a petition for  
295.18       reconsideration of the commission's compensation decision must be filed; or (2) the date  
295.19       the commission issues an order following reconsideration of the commission's order on  
295.20       participant compensation.

295.21       (b) If the commission issues an order requiring payment of participant compensation in  
295.22       a proceeding involving multiple public utilities, the commission shall apportion costs among  
295.23       the public utilities in proportion to each public utility's annual revenue.

295.24       (c) The commission may issue orders necessary to allow a public utility to recover the  
295.25       costs of participant compensation on a timely basis.

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

295.27       **Sec. 14. [216C.51] UTILITY DIVERSITY REPORTING.**

295.28       **Subdivision 1. Policy.** It is the policy of this state to encourage each utility that serves  
295.29       Minnesota residents to focus on and improve the diversity of the utility's workforce and  
295.30       suppliers.

295.31       **Subd. 2. Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the  
295.32       meanings given.

296.1        (b) "Certification" means official recognition by a governmental unit that a business is  
296.2        a preferred vendor as a result of the characteristics of the business owner or owners or the  
296.3        location of the business.

296.4        (c) "Utility" has the meaning given in section 216C.06, subdivision 18.

296.5        Subd. 3. **Annual report.** (a) Beginning March 15, 2022, and each March 15 thereafter,  
296.6        each utility authorized to do business in Minnesota must file an annual diversity report to  
296.7        the commissioner on:

296.8        (1) the utility's goals and efforts to increase diversity in the workplace, including current  
296.9        workforce representation numbers and percentages; and

296.10        (2) all procurement goals and actual spending for female-owned, minority-owned,  
296.11        veteran-owned, and small business enterprises during the previous calendar year.

296.12        (b) The goals under paragraph (a), clause (2), must be expressed as a percentage of the  
296.13        total work performed by the utility submitting the report. The actual spending for  
296.14        female-owned, minority-owned, veteran-owned, and small business enterprises must also  
296.15        be expressed as a percentage of the total work performed by the utility submitting the report.

296.16        Subd. 4. **Report elements.** Each utility required to report under this section must include  
296.17        the following in the annual report:

296.18        (1) an explanation of the plan to increase diversity in the utility's workforce and suppliers  
296.19        during the next year;

296.20        (2) an explanation of the plan to increase the goals;

296.21        (3) an explanation of the challenges faced to increase workforce and supplier diversity,  
296.22        including suggestions regarding actions the department could take to help identify potential  
296.23        employees and vendors;

296.24        (4) a list of the certifications the company recognizes;

296.25        (5) a point of contact for a potential employee or vendor that wishes to work for or do  
296.26        business with the utility; and

296.27        (6) a list of successful actions taken to increase workforce and supplier diversity, in  
296.28        order to encourage other companies to emulate best practices.

296.29        Subd. 5. **State data.** Each annual report must include as much state-specific data as  
296.30        possible. If the submitting utility does not submit state-specific data, the utility must include  
296.31        any relevant national data the utility possesses, explain why the utility could not submit

297.1 state-specific data, and explain how the utility intends to include state-specific data in future  
297.2 reports, if possible.

297.3 Subd. 6. **Publication; retention.** The department must publish an annual report on the  
297.4 department's website and must maintain each annual report for at least five years.

297.5 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216E.03, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

297.6 **Subd. 7. Considerations in designating sites and routes.** (a) The commission's site  
297.7 and route permit determinations must be guided by the state's goals to conserve resources,  
297.8 minimize environmental impacts, minimize human settlement and other land use conflicts,  
297.9 and ensure the state's electric energy security through efficient, cost-effective power supply  
297.10 and electric transmission infrastructure.

297.11 (b) To facilitate the study, research, evaluation, and designation of sites and routes, the  
297.12 commission shall be guided by, but not limited to, the following considerations:

297.13 (1) evaluation of research and investigations relating to the effects on land, water and  
297.14 air resources of large electric power generating plants and high-voltage transmission lines  
297.15 and the effects of water and air discharges and electric and magnetic fields resulting from  
297.16 such facilities on public health and welfare, vegetation, animals, materials and aesthetic  
297.17 values, including baseline studies, predictive modeling, and evaluation of new or improved  
297.18 methods for minimizing adverse impacts of water and air discharges and other matters  
297.19 pertaining to the effects of power plants on the water and air environment;

297.20 (2) environmental evaluation of sites and routes proposed for future development and  
297.21 expansion and their relationship to the land, water, air and human resources of the state;

297.22 (3) evaluation of the effects of new electric power generation and transmission  
297.23 technologies and systems related to power plants designed to minimize adverse environmental  
297.24 effects;

297.25 (4) evaluation of the potential for beneficial uses of waste energy from proposed large  
297.26 electric power generating plants;

297.27 (5) analysis of the direct and indirect economic impact of proposed sites and routes  
297.28 including, but not limited to, productive agricultural land lost or impaired;

297.29 (6) evaluation of adverse direct and indirect environmental effects that cannot be avoided  
297.30 should the proposed site and route be accepted;

297.31 (7) evaluation of alternatives to the applicant's proposed site or route proposed pursuant  
297.32 to subdivisions 1 and 2;

298.1       (8) evaluation of potential routes that would use or parallel existing railroad and highway  
298.2       rights-of-way;

298.3       (9) evaluation of governmental survey lines and other natural division lines of agricultural  
298.4       land so as to minimize interference with agricultural operations;

298.5       (10) evaluation of the future needs for additional high-voltage transmission lines in the  
298.6       same general area as any proposed route, and the advisability of ordering the construction  
298.7       of structures capable of expansion in transmission capacity through multiple circuiting or  
298.8       design modifications;

298.9       (11) evaluation of irreversible and irretrievable commitments of resources should the  
298.10      proposed site or route be approved; **and**

298.11      (12) when appropriate, consideration of problems raised by other state and federal  
298.12      agencies and local entities;

298.13      (13) evaluation of the benefits of the proposed facility with respect to the protection and  
298.14      enhancement of environmental quality, and to the reliability of state and regional energy  
298.15      supplies; and

298.16      (14) evaluation of the proposed project's impact on socioeconomic factors.

298.17      (c) If the commission's rules are substantially similar to existing regulations of a federal  
298.18      agency to which the utility in the state is subject, the federal regulations must be applied by  
298.19      the commission.

298.20      (d) No site or route shall be designated which violates state agency rules.

298.21      (e) The commission must make specific findings that it has considered locating a route  
298.22      for a high-voltage transmission line on an existing high-voltage transmission route and the  
298.23      use of parallel existing highway right-of-way and, to the extent those are not used for the  
298.24      route, the commission must state the reasons.

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

298.26      Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216E.04, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

298.27      Subd. 2. **Applicable projects.** The requirements and procedures in this section apply to  
298.28      the following projects:

298.29      (1) large electric power generating plants with a capacity of less than 80 megawatts;

298.30      (2) large electric power generating plants that are fueled by natural gas;

298.31      (3) high-voltage transmission lines of between 100 and 200 kilovolts;

299.1        (4) high-voltage transmission lines in excess of 200 kilovolts and less than ~~five~~ 30 miles  
299.2        in length in Minnesota;

299.3        (5) high-voltage transmission lines in excess of 200 kilovolts if at least 80 percent of  
299.4        the distance of the line in Minnesota will be located along existing high-voltage transmission  
299.5        line right-of-way;

299.6        (6) a high-voltage transmission line service extension to a single customer between 200  
299.7        and 300 kilovolts and less than ten miles in length;

299.8        (7) a high-voltage transmission line rerouting to serve the demand of a single customer  
299.9        when the rerouted line will be located at least 80 percent on property owned or controlled  
299.10       by the customer or the owner of the transmission line; and

299.11       (8) large electric power generating plants that are powered by solar energy.

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

299.13       Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216F.012, is amended to read:

299.14       **216F.012 SIZE ELECTION.**

299.15       (a) A wind energy conversion system of less than 25 megawatts of nameplate capacity  
299.16       as determined under section 216F.011 is a small wind energy conversion system if, by July  
299.17       1, 2009, the owner so elects in writing and submits a completed application for zoning  
299.18       approval and the written election to the county or counties in which the project is proposed  
299.19       to be located. The owner must notify the Public Utilities Commission of the election at the  
299.20       time the owner submits the election to the county.

299.21       (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), a wind energy conversion system with a nameplate  
299.22       capacity exceeding five megawatts that is proposed to be located wholly or partially within  
299.23       a wind access buffer adjacent to state lands that are part of the outdoor recreation system,  
299.24       as enumerated in section 86A.05, is a large wind energy conversion system. The Department  
299.25       of Natural Resources shall negotiate in good faith with a system owner regarding siting and  
299.26       may support the system owner in seeking a variance from the system setback requirements  
299.27       if it determines that a variance is in the public interest.

299.28       (c) ~~The Public Utilities Commission shall issue an annual report to the chairs and ranking  
299.29       minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees with primary  
299.30       jurisdiction over energy policy and natural resource policy regarding any variances applied  
299.31       for and not granted for systems subject to paragraph (b).~~

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

300.1 **Sec. 18. [216F.084] WIND TURBINE LIGHTING SYSTEMS.**300.2 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have  
300.3 the meanings given.300.4 (b) "Duration" means the length of time during which the lights of a wind turbine lighting  
300.5 system are lit.300.6 (c) "Intensity" means the brightness of a wind turbine lighting system's lights.300.7 (d) "Light-mitigating technology" means a sensor-based system that reduces the duration  
300.8 or intensity of wind turbine lighting systems by:300.9 (1) using radio frequency or other sensors to detect aircraft approaching one or more  
300.10 wind turbines, or detecting visibility conditions at turbine sites; and300.11 (2) automatically activating appropriate obstruction lights until the lights are no longer  
300.12 needed by the aircraft and are turned off or dimmed.300.13 A light-mitigating technology may include an audio feature that transmits an audible warning  
300.14 message to provide a pilot additional information regarding a wind turbine the aircraft is  
300.15 approaching.300.16 (e) "Repowering project" has the meaning given in section 216B.243, subdivision 8,  
300.17 paragraph (b).300.18 (f) "Wind turbine lighting system" means a system of lights installed on an LWECS that  
300.19 meets the applicable Federal Aviation Administration requirements.300.20 Subd. 2. Application. This section applies to an LWECS issued a site permit or site  
300.21 permit amendment, including a site permit amendment for an LWECS repowering project,  
300.22 by the commission under section 216F.04 or by a county under section 216F.08, provided  
300.23 that the application for a site permit or permit amendment is filed after July 1, 2021.300.24 Subd. 3. Required lighting system. (a) An LWECS subject to this section must be  
300.25 equipped with a light-mitigating technology that meets the requirements established in  
300.26 Chapter 14 of the Federal Aviation Administration's Advisory Circular 70/760-1, Obstruction  
300.27 Marking and Lighting, as updated, unless the Federal Aviation Administration, after  
300.28 reviewing the LWECS site plan, rejects the use of the light-mitigating technology for the  
300.29 LWECS. A light-mitigating technology installed on a wind turbine in Minnesota must be  
300.30 purchased from a vendor approved by the Federal Aviation Administration.300.31 (b) If the Federal Aviation Administration, after reviewing the LWECS site plan, rejects  
300.32 the use of a light-mitigating technology for the LWECS under paragraph (a), the LWECS

301.1 must be equipped with a wind turbine lighting system that minimizes the duration or intensity  
301.2 of the lighting system while maintaining full compliance with the lighting standards  
301.3 established in Chapter 13 of the Federal Aviation Administration's Advisory Circular  
301.4 70/760-1, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, as updated.

301.5 Subd. 4. **Exemptions.** (a) The Public Utilities Commission or a county that has assumed  
301.6 permitting authority under section 216F.08 must grant an owner of an LWECS an exemption  
301.7 from subdivision 3, paragraph (a), if the Federal Aviation Administration denies the owner's  
301.8 application to equip an LWECS with a light-mitigating technology.

301.9 (b) The Public Utilities Commission or a county that has assumed permitting authority  
301.10 under section 216F.08 must grant an owner of an LWECS an exemption from or an extension  
301.11 of time to comply with subdivision 3, paragraph (a), if after notice and public hearing the  
301.12 owner of the LWECS demonstrates to the satisfaction of the commission or county that:

301.13 (1) equipping an LWECS with a light-mitigating technology is technically infeasible;  
301.14 (2) equipping an LWECS with a light-mitigating technology imposes a significant  
301.15 financial burden on the permittee; or  
301.16 (3) a vendor approved by the Federal Aviation Administration cannot deliver a  
301.17 light-mitigating technology to the LWECS owner in a reasonable amount of time.

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

301.19 Sec. 19. **TRIBAL ADVOCACY COUNCIL ON ENERGY; DEPARTMENT OF**  
301.20 **COMMERCE SUPPORT.**

301.21 (a) The Department of Commerce must provide technical support and subject matter  
301.22 expertise to help facilitate efforts taken by the 11 federally recognized Indian Tribes in  
301.23 Minnesota to establish and operate a Tribal advocacy council on energy.

301.24 (b) When requested by a Tribal advocacy council on energy, the Department of Commerce  
301.25 must assist the council to:

301.26 (1) assess and evaluate common Tribal energy issues, including:  
301.27 (i) identifying and prioritizing energy issues;  
301.28 (ii) facilitating idea sharing among the Tribes to generate solutions to energy issues; and  
301.29 (iii) assisting decision making with respect to resolving energy issues;  
301.30 (2) develop new statewide energy policies or proposed legislation, including:  
301.31 (i) organizing stakeholder meetings;

302.1        (ii) gathering input and other relevant information;  
302.2        (iii) assisting with policy proposal development, evaluation, and decision making; and  
302.3        (iv) helping facilitate actions taken to submit, and obtain approval for or have enacted,  
302.4        policies or legislation approved by the council;  
302.5        (3) make efforts to raise awareness of and provide educational opportunities with respect  
302.6        to Tribal energy issues among Tribal members by:  
302.7        (i) identifying information resources;  
302.8        (ii) gathering feedback on issues and topics the council identifies as areas of interest;  
302.9        and  
302.10        (iii) identifying topics for and helping to facilitate educational forums; and  
302.11        (4) identify, evaluate, disseminate, and implement successful energy-related practices.  
302.12        (c) Nothing in this section requires or otherwise obligates the 11 federally recognized  
302.13        Indian Tribes in Minnesota to establish a Tribal advocacy council on energy, nor does it  
302.14        require or obligate a federally recognized Indian Tribe in Minnesota to participate in or  
302.15        implement a decision or support an effort made by a Tribal advocacy council on energy.  
302.16        (d) Any support provided by the Department of Commerce to a Tribal advocacy council  
302.17        on energy under this section must be provided only upon request of the council and is limited  
302.18        to issues and areas where the Department of Commerce's expertise and assistance is  
302.19        requested.

302.20        **Sec. 20. PILOT PROJECT; REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.**

302.21        Upon completion of the solar energy pilot project described in section 21, subdivision  
302.22        3, paragraph (b), or by January 15, 2023, whichever is earlier, the commissioner of the  
302.23        Pollution Control Agency, in cooperation with the electric cooperative association operating  
302.24        the pilot project, must report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative  
302.25        committees with jurisdiction over capital investment, energy, and environment on the  
302.26        following:  
302.27        (1) project accomplishments and milestones, including any project growth, developments,  
302.28        or agreements that resulted from the project;  
302.29        (2) challenges or barriers faced during development or after completion of the project;  
302.30        (3) project financials, including expenses, utility agreements, and project viability; and  
302.31        (4) replicability of the pilot project to other future closed landfill projects.

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

303.2 **Sec. 21. APPROPRIATIONS.**

303.3 **Subdivision 1. Microgrid research and application.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota  
303.4 Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and  
303.5 \$1,200,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account  
303.6 established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of  
303.7 commerce for transfer to the University of St. Thomas Center for Microgrid Research for  
303.8 the purposes of paragraph (b). The base in fiscal year 2024 is \$1,000,000, and the base in  
303.9 fiscal year 2025 is \$400,000. The base in fiscal year 2026 is \$400,000.

303.10 (b) The appropriations in this section must be used by the University of St. Thomas

303.11 Center for Microgrid Research to:

303.12 (1) increase the center's capacity to provide industry partners opportunities to test  
303.13 near-commercial microgrid products on a real-world scale and to multiply opportunities for  
303.14 innovative research;

303.15 (2) procure advanced equipment and controls to enable the extension of the university's  
303.16 microgrid to additional buildings; and

303.17 (3) expand (i) hands-on educational opportunities to better understand the operations of  
303.18 microgrids to undergraduate and graduate electrical engineering students, and (ii) partnerships  
303.19 with community colleges.

303.20 **Subd. 2. Clean energy training; pilot project.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
303.21 section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$2,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated  
303.22 from the renewable development account to the commissioner of employment and economic  
303.23 development for a grant to Northgate Development, LLC, for a pilot project to provide  
303.24 training pathways into careers in clean energy for students and young adults in underserved  
303.25 communities. Any unexpended funds remaining at the end of the biennium cancel to the  
303.26 renewable development account. This is a onetime appropriation.

303.27 (b) The pilot project must develop skills among program participants, short of the level  
303.28 required for licensing under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 326B, that are relevant to the design,  
303.29 construction, operation, or maintenance of:

303.30 (1) systems producing solar or wind energy;

303.31 (2) improvements in energy efficiency, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section  
303.32 216B.241, subdivision 1;

304.1        (3) energy storage systems connected to renewable energy facilities, including battery  
304.2        technology;

304.3        (4) infrastructure for charging all-electric or electric hybrid vehicles; or

304.4        (5) grid technologies that manage load and provide services to the distribution grid that  
304.5        reduce energy consumption or shift demand to off-peak periods.

304.6        (c) Training must be designed to create pathways to a postsecondary degree, industry  
304.7        certification, or to a registered apprenticeship program under chapter 178 that is related to  
304.8        the fields in paragraph (b) and then to stable career employment at a living wage.

304.9        (d) Training must be provided at a location that is accessible by public transportation  
304.10        and must prioritize the inclusion of communities of color, indigenous people, and low-income  
304.11        individuals.

304.12        (e) Grant funds may be used for all expenses related to the training program, including  
304.13        curriculum, instructors, equipment, materials, and leasing and improving space for use by  
304.14        the program.

304.15        (f) No later than January 15, 2022, and by January 15 of 2023 and 2024, Northgate  
304.16        Development, LLC, shall submit an annual report to the commissioner of employment and  
304.17        economic development that must include, at a minimum, information on:

304.18        (1) program expenditures, including but not limited to amounts spent on curriculum,  
304.19        instructors, equipment, materials, and leasing and improving space for use by the program;

304.20        (2) other public or private funding sources, including in-kind donations, supporting the  
304.21        pilot program;

304.22        (3) the number of program participants;

304.23        (4) demographic information on program participants including but not limited to race,  
304.24        age, gender, and income; and

304.25        (5) the number of program participants placed in a postsecondary program, industry  
304.26        certification program, or registered apprenticeship program under Minnesota Statutes,  
304.27        chapter 178.

304.28        **Subd. 3. Landfill bond prepayment; solar pilot project.** (a) Notwithstanding Minnesota  
304.29        Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$100,000 in fiscal year 2022 is  
304.30        appropriated from the renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes,  
304.31        section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce for transfer to the  
304.32        commissioner of management and budget to prepay and defease any outstanding general

305.1 obligation bonds used to acquire property, finance improvements and betterments, or pay  
305.2 any other associated financing costs at the Anoka-Ramsey closed landfill. This amount may  
305.3 be deposited, invested, and applied to accomplish the purposes of this section as provided  
305.4 in Minnesota Statutes, section 475.67, subdivisions 5 to 10 and 13. Upon the prepayment  
305.5 and defeasance of all associated debt on the real property and improvements, all conditions  
305.6 set forth in Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.695, subdivision 3, are deemed to have been  
305.7 satisfied and the real property and improvements no longer constitute state bond financed  
305.8 property under Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.695. This is a onetime appropriation. Any  
305.9 funds appropriated under this section that remain unexpended after the purposes in this  
305.10 paragraph have been met cancel to the renewable development account.

305.11 (b) Once the purposes in paragraph (a) have been met, the commissioner of the Pollution  
305.12 Control Agency may take actions and execute agreements to facilitate the beneficial reuse  
305.13 of the Anoka-Ramsey closed landfill, and may specifically authorize the installation of a  
305.14 solar energy generating system, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 216E.01,  
305.15 subdivision 9a, as a pilot project at the closed landfill to be owned and operated by a  
305.16 cooperative electric association that has more than 130,000 customers in Minnesota. The  
305.17 appropriation in paragraph (a) must not be used to finance the pilot project, procure land  
305.18 rights, or to manage the solar energy generating system.

305.19 Subd. 4. **Participant compensation.** (a) \$30,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$30,000 in  
305.20 fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce  
305.21 to address participant compensation issues in Public Utilities Commission proceedings, as  
305.22 described in Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.631.

305.23 (b) \$28,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$28,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from  
305.24 the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission to address participant compensation  
305.25 issues under Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.631.

305.26 Subd. 5. **Commerce department; Energy Resources Division.** \$3,493,000 in fiscal  
305.27 year 2022 and \$3,547,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the  
305.28 commissioner of commerce for general operating activities of the Energy Resources Division.

305.29 Subd. 6. **Weatherization; vermiculite remediation.** \$150,000 in fiscal year 2022 and  
305.30 \$150,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner  
305.31 of commerce to remediate vermiculite insulation from households that are eligible for  
305.32 weatherization assistance under Minnesota's weatherization assistance program state plan  
305.33 under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.264. Remediation must be done in conjunction with  
305.34 federal weatherization assistance program services.

306.1        Subd. 7. Energy regulation and planning. \$851,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$870,000  
306.2        in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce  
306.3        for activities of the energy regulation and planning unit staff.

306.4        Subd. 8. "Made in Minnesota" administration. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes,  
306.5        section 116C. 779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$100,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$100,000  
306.6        in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established  
306.7        in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce  
306.8        to administer the "Made in Minnesota" solar energy production incentive program under  
306.9        Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.417. Any remaining unspent funds cancel back to the  
306.10        renewable development account at the end of the biennium.

306.11        Subd. 9. Grant cycle; proposal evaluation. \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$500,000  
306.12        in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the renewable development account established  
306.13        in Minnesota Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of commerce  
306.14        for costs associated with any third-party expert evaluation of a proposal submitted in response  
306.15        to a request for proposal to the renewable development advisory group under Minnesota  
306.16        Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (l). No portion of this appropriation  
306.17        may be expended or retained by the commissioner of commerce. Any funds appropriated  
306.18        under this paragraph that are unexpended at the end of a fiscal year cancel to the renewable  
306.19        development account.

306.20        Subd. 10. Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board. \$1,056,000 in fiscal year  
306.21        2022 and \$1,056,000 in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the petroleum tank fund to  
306.22        the Petroleum Tank Release Compensation Board for its operations.

306.23        Subd. 11. Public Utilities Commission. \$8,073,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$8,202,000  
306.24        in fiscal year 2023 are appropriated from the general fund to the Public Utilities Commission  
306.25        for its general operations.

306.26        Subd. 12. Study; human rights impact of enactment. Notwithstanding Minnesota  
306.27        Statutes, section 116C.779, subdivision 1, paragraph (j), \$100,000 in fiscal year 2022 is  
306.28        appropriated from the renewable development account established under Minnesota Statutes,  
306.29        section 116C.779, subdivision 1, to the commissioner of human rights to conduct a study  
306.30        of the impact of the enactment of articles 7 to 12 of this act on human rights in the Democratic  
306.31        Republic of the Congo and the Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic  
306.32        of China. The report must be submitted to the chairs and ranking minority members of the  
306.33        senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over energy policy and  
306.34        finance no later than February 1, 2022.

307.1 **Sec. 22. REPEALER.**

307.2 (a) Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216B.16, subdivision 10, is repealed.

307.3 (b) Laws 2017, chapter 5, section 1, is repealed.

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

No active language found for: 45.017

**45.306 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES OFFERED OVER THE INTERNET.**

No active language found for: 45.306.1

No active language found for: 60A.98

No active language found for: 60A.981

No active language found for: 60A.982

No active language found for: 115C.13

**216B.16 RATE CHANGE; PROCEDURE; HEARING.**

Subd. 10. **Intervenor compensation.** (a) A nonprofit organization or an individual granted formal intervenor status by the commission is eligible to receive compensation.

(b) The commission may order a utility to compensate all or part of an eligible intervenor's reasonable costs of participation in a general rate case that comes before the commission when the commission finds that the intervenor has materially assisted the commission's deliberation and when a lack of compensation would present financial hardship to the intervenor. Compensation may not exceed \$50,000 for a single intervenor in any proceeding. For the purpose of this subdivision, "materially assisted" means that the intervenor's participation and presentation was useful and seriously considered, or otherwise substantially contributed to the commission's deliberations in the proceeding.

(c) In determining whether an intervenor has materially assisted the commission's deliberation, the commission must consider, among other factors, whether:

(1) the intervenor represented an interest that would not otherwise have been adequately represented;

(2) the evidence or arguments presented or the positions taken by the intervenor were an important factor in producing a fair decision;

(3) the intervenor's position promoted a public purpose or policy;

(4) the evidence presented, arguments made, issues raised, or positions taken by the intervenor would not have been a part of the record without the intervenor's participation; and

(5) the administrative law judge or the commission adopted, in whole or in part, a position advocated by the intervenor.

(d) In determining whether the absence of compensation would present financial hardship to the intervenor, the commission must consider:

(1) whether the costs presented in the intervenor's claim reflect reasonable fees for attorneys and expert witnesses and other reasonable costs; and

(2) the ratio between the costs of intervention and the intervenor's unrestricted funds.

(e) An intervenor seeking compensation must file a request and an affidavit of service with the commission, and serve a copy of the request on each party to the proceeding. The request must be filed 30 days after the later of (1) the expiration of the period within which a petition for rehearing, amendment, vacation, reconsideration, or reargument must be filed or (2) the date the commission issues an order following rehearing, amendment, vacation, reconsideration, or reargument.

(f) The compensation request must include:

(1) the name and address of the intervenor or representative of the nonprofit organization the intervenor is representing;

(2) proof of the organization's nonprofit, tax-exempt status;

(3) the name and docket number of the proceeding for which compensation is requested;

(4) a list of actual annual revenues and expenses of the organization the intervenor is representing for the preceding year and projected revenues, revenue sources, and expenses for the current year;

(5) the organization's balance sheet for the preceding year and a current monthly balance sheet;

(6) an itemization of intervenor costs and the total compensation request; and

**APPENDIX**  
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: UES0972-1

(7) a narrative explaining why additional organizational funds cannot be devoted to the intervention.

(g) Within 30 days after service of the request for compensation, a party may file a response, together with an affidavit of service, with the commission. A copy of the response must be served on the intervenor and all other parties to the proceeding.

(h) Within 15 days after the response is filed, the intervenor may file a reply with the commission. A copy of the reply and an affidavit of service must be served on all other parties to the proceeding.

(i) If additional costs are incurred as a result of additional proceedings following the commission's initial order, the intervenor may file an amended request within 30 days after the commission issues an amended order. Paragraphs (e) to (h) apply to an amended request.

(j) The commission must issue a decision on intervenor compensation within 60 days of a filing by an intervenor.

(k) A party may request reconsideration of the commission's compensation decision within 30 days of the decision.

(l) If the commission issues an order requiring payment of intervenor compensation, the utility that was the subject of the proceeding must pay the compensation to the intervenor, and file with the commission proof of payment, within 30 days after the later of (1) the expiration of the period within which a petition for reconsideration of the commission's compensation decision must be filed or (2) the date the commission issues an order following reconsideration of its order on intervenor compensation.

**216B.1691 RENEWABLE ENERGY OBJECTIVES.**

Subd. 2. **Eligible energy objectives.** Each electric utility shall make a good faith effort to generate or procure sufficient electricity generated by an eligible energy technology to provide its retail consumers, or the retail customers of a distribution utility to which the electric utility provides wholesale electric service, so that commencing in 2005, at least one percent of the electric utility's total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota is generated by eligible energy technologies and seven percent of the electric utility's total retail electric sales to retail customers in Minnesota by 2010 is generated by eligible energy technologies.

**216B.241 PUBLIC UTILITIES; ENERGY CONSERVATION AND OPTIMIZATION.**

No active language found for: 216B.241.1

No active language found for: 216B.241.1b

No active language found for: 216B.241.2c

No active language found for: 216B.241.4

No active language found for: 216B.241.10

*Laws 2017, chapter 5, section 1*

**Section 1. NATURAL GAS COMBINED CYCLE ELECTRIC GENERATION PLANT.**

(a) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.243 and Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216E, a public utility may, at its sole discretion, construct, own, and operate a natural gas combined cycle electric generation plant as the utility proposed to the Public Utilities Commission in docket number E-002/RP-15-21, or as revised by the utility and approved by the Public Utilities Commission in the latest resource plan filed after the effective date of this section, provided that the plant is located on property in Sherburne County, Minnesota, already owned by the public utility, and will be constructed after January 1, 2018.

(b) Reasonable and prudently incurred costs and investments by a public utility under this section may be recovered pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 216B.16.

(c) No less than 20 months prior to the start of construction, a public utility intending to construct a plant under this section shall file with the commission an evaluation of the utility's forecasted costs prepared by an independent evaluator and may ask the commission to establish a sliding scale rate of return mechanism for this capital investment to provide an incentive for the utility to complete the project at or under the forecasted costs.