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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2136

03/06/2017 Authored by Gunther  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Job Growth and Energy Affordability Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to economic development; appropriating money for entrepreneurial  
1.3 development; requiring a report.

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

1.5 Section 1. ASSISTANCE TO ENTREPRENEURS; APPROPRIATION.

1.6 (a) \$360,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$360,000 in fiscal year 2019 are appropriated from  
1.7 the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for a grant  
1.8 to the Small Business Development Center hosted at Minnesota State University, Mankato,  
1.9 for a collaborative initiative with the Regional Center for Entrepreneurial Facilitation. Funds  
1.10 available under this section must be used to provide entrepreneur and small business  
1.11 development direct professional business assistance services in the following counties in  
1.12 Minnesota: Blue Earth, Brown, Faribault, Le Sueur, Martin, Nicollet, Sibley, Watonwan,  
1.13 and Waseca. For the purposes of this section, "direct professional business assistance  
1.14 services" must include, but is not limited to, pre-venture assistance for individuals considering  
1.15 starting a business. This appropriation is not available until the commissioner determines  
1.16 that an equal amount is committed from nonstate sources. Any balance in the first year does  
1.17 not cancel and is available for expenditure in the second year.

1.18 (b) Grant recipients shall report to the commissioner by February 1 of each year and  
1.19 include information on the number of customers served in each county; the number of  
1.20 businesses started, stabilized, or expanded; the number of jobs created and retained; and  
1.21 business success rates in each county. By April 1 of each year, the commissioner shall report  
1.22 the information submitted by grant recipients to the chairs of the standing committees of

- 2.1 the house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over economic development
- 2.2 issues.