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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. **1885**

03/04/2021

Authored by Backer

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Workforce and Business Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to telecommunications; transferring money for the broadband grant
1.3 program.

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

1.5 Section 1. **BROADBAND GRANT PROGRAM; TRANSFER.**

1.6 (a) \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$60,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 are transferred
1.7 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for
1.8 deposit in the border-to-border broadband fund account established in Minnesota Statutes,
1.9 section 116J.396, subdivision 1, for the purposes specified in Minnesota Statutes, section
1.10 116J.396, subdivision 2.

1.11 (b) \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$15,000,000 in fiscal year 2023 are transferred
1.12 from the general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for
1.13 deposit in the border-to-border broadband fund account established in Minnesota Statutes,
1.14 section 116J.396, subdivision 1. This transfer must be used only to provide broadband
1.15 service in unserved areas, except that money from the transfer may be used to place
1.16 broadband infrastructure, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.394, in underserved
1.17 areas. Notwithstanding the limitation in Minnesota Statutes, section 116J.395, subdivision
1.18 7, paragraph (a), the grants are available for 55 percent of total project cost if the grant is
1.19 matched by ten percent or more from a nonstate entity. The nonstate entity providing the
1.20 match may include but is not limited to organized townships, cities, counties, foundations,
1.21 nonprofits, school districts, or higher education institutions.

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