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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 2181

03/07/2019 Authored by Sandstede, Baker, Ecklund and Layman
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Labor

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to economic development; creating a Telecommuter Forward! certification;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116J.

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

1.5 Section 1. [116J.9923] TELECOMMUNICATION FORWARD! CERTIFICATION.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Definition. In this section, "political subdivision" means a city, township,
1.7 or county.

1.8 Subd. 2. Certification. A political subdivision may apply to the commissioner of
1.9 employment and economic development for certification as a Telecommuter Forward!
1.10 Community. The commissioner of employment and economic development shall prescribe
1.11 the form and manner for making an application and a process for public notice and comment
1.12 on an application. Before approving an application, the commissioner shall consider any
1.13 public comments made regarding the application and the information in subdivision 3.

1.14 Subd. 3. Resolution. In addition to the application in subdivision 2, a political subdivision
1.15 must adopt a resolution that does both of the following:

1.16 (1) states the political subdivision's support and commitment to promote the availability
1.17 of telecommuting options; and

1.18 (2) provides for a single point of contact for coordinating telecommuting opportunities
1.19 that has all of the following responsibilities:

1.20 (i) coordination and partnership with broadband providers, realtors, economic
1.21 development professionals, employers, employees, and other telecommuting stakeholders;

- 2.1 (ii) collaboration with broadband providers and employers to identify, develop, and  
2.2 market telecommuter-capable broadband packages;
- 2.3 (iii) communication and partnership with broadband providers and economic development  
2.4 professionals to develop common goals;
- 2.5 (iv) promotion of telecommuter-friendly work spaces, such as business incubators with  
2.6 telecommuting spaces, if such a work space has been established in the political subdivision  
2.7 at the time the political subdivision adopts the resolution;
- 2.8 (v) familiarity with broadband mapping tools and other state-level resources;
- 2.9 (vi) maintaining regular communication with the state broadband office; and
- 2.10 (vii) making regular reports to the governing body of the political subdivision.