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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2243

02/25/2014 Authored by Selcer, O'Neill, Rosenthal, Erhardt and Lien

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to economic development; creating a women entrepreneurs business
1.3 development competitive grant program; appropriating money.

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

1.5 Section 1. WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
1.6 COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

1.7 Subdivision 1. Appropriation. \$500,000 is appropriated from the general fund
1.8 in fiscal year 2014 to the commissioner of employment and economic development
1.9 to establish a women entrepreneurs business development competitive grant program
1.10 to facilitate the creation and expansion of high-growth, high-revenue businesses by
1.11 entrepreneurs who are women. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until
1.12 expended.

1.13 Subd. 2. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.14 the meanings given.

1.15 (a) "Women-owned business" means a business entity owned or controlled by
1.16 women that is organized for profit including, but not limited to, an individual, partnership,
1.17 corporation, joint venture, association, or cooperative. "Owned or controlled by women"
1.18 means:

1.19 (1) that the business is at least 51 percent owned by one or more women or, in the
1.20 case of any publicly traded business, at least 51 percent of the stock of which is owned by
1.21 one or more women; and

1.22 (2) the business has management and daily business operations that are controlled
1.23 by one or more women.

2.1 (b) "High economic impact firm" means a business that is projected to generate at  
2.2 least \$500,000 in annual revenue and create at least ten high-quality jobs.

2.3 (c) "Qualified business" means a women-owned business in the field of construction;  
2.4 transportation; warehousing; agriculture; mining; finance; insurance; professional,  
2.5 technical, or scientific services; technology; or other high economic impact industries.

2.6 (d) "High-quality job" means a job that pays an annual income equal to at least 150  
2.7 percent of the federal poverty guideline adjusted for a family size of four.

2.8 Subd. 3. **Use of funds.** Funds available under this section may be used for:

2.9 (1) entrepreneurial training, mentoring, and technical assistance for the startup or  
2.10 expansion of businesses owned by women;

2.11 (2) development of networks of potential investors; and

2.12 (3) development of a recruitment program for midcareer women with an interest  
2.13 in starting a qualified business.