

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.F. No. 4466**

(SENATE AUTHORS: SENJEM)

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Energy and Utilities Finance and Policy

OFFICIAL STATUS

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to energy; modifying residential weatherization programs; appropriating
- 1.3 money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, subdivision 5, by
- 1.4 adding subdivisions.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, is amended by adding a subdivision
- 1.7 to read:
- 1.8 Subd. 1a. **Definitions.** (a) For purposes of this section, the following terms have the
- 1.9 meanings given.
- 1.10 (b) "Low-income conservation program" means a utility program that offers energy
- 1.11 conservation services to low-income households under sections 216B.2403, subdivision 5,
- 1.12 and 216B.241, subdivision 7.
- 1.13 (c) "Preweatherization measure" has the meaning given in section 216B.2402, subdivision
- 1.14 20.
- 1.15 (d) "Weatherization assistance program" means the federal program described in Code
- 1.16 of Federal Regulations, title 10, part 440 et seq., designed to assist low-income households
- 1.17 reduce energy use in a cost-effective manner.
- 1.18 (e) "Weatherization assistance services" means the energy conservation measures installed
- 1.19 in households under the weatherization assistance program.
- 1.20 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 5. **Grant allocation.** (a) The commissioner must distribute supplementary state  
2.3 grants in a manner consistent with the goal of producing the maximum number of weatherized  
2.4 units. Supplementary state grants ~~are provided primarily for the payment of~~ may be used:

2.5 (1) to address physical deficiencies in a residence that increase heat loss, including  
2.6 deficiencies that prohibit the residence from being eligible to receive federal weatherization  
2.7 assistance;

2.8 (2) to install eligible preweatherization measures established by the commissioner, as  
2.9 required under section 216B.241, subdivision 7, paragraph (g);

2.10 (3) to increase the number of weatherized residences;

2.11 (4) to conduct outreach activities to make income-eligible households aware of available  
2.12 weatherization services, to assist applicants in filling out applications for weatherization  
2.13 assistance, and to provide translation services where necessary;

2.14 (5) to enable projects in multifamily buildings to proceed even if the project cannot  
2.15 comply with the federal requirement that projects must be completed within the same federal  
2.16 fiscal year in which the project is begun;

2.17 (6) to expand weatherization training opportunities in existing and new training programs;

2.18 (7) to pay additional labor costs for the federal weatherization program; and

2.19 (8) as an incentive for the increased production of weatherized units.

2.20 (b) Criteria for the allocation of state grants to local agencies include existing local  
2.21 agency production levels, emergency needs, and the potential for maintaining or increasing  
2.22 acceptable levels of production in the area.

2.23 (c) An eligible local agency may receive advance funding for 90 days' production, but  
2.24 thereafter must receive grants solely on the basis of program criteria.

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

2.26 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, is amended by adding a subdivision  
2.27 to read:

2.28 Subd. 7. **Supplemental weatherization assistance grants.** The commissioner must  
2.29 provide grants to weatherization service providers to address physical deficiencies and  
2.30 install weatherization and preweatherization measures in residential buildings occupied by  
2.31 eligible low-income households.

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

3.2 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, is amended by adding a subdivision  
3.3 to read:

3.4 **Subd. 8. Training grants program.** (a) The commissioner must establish a  
3.5 weatherization training grant program to award grants to educational institutions, certified  
3.6 training centers, labor organizations, and nonprofits to assist with the costs associated with  
3.7 training and developing programs for careers in the weatherization industry. The  
3.8 commissioner must award grants through a competitive grant process.

3.9 (b) In order to receive grant funds, a written application must be submitted to the  
3.10 commissioner on a form developed by the commissioner.

3.11 (c) When awarding grants under this subdivision, the commissioner must prioritize  
3.12 applications that:

3.13 (1) provide the highest quality training to prepare for in-demand careers;

3.14 (2) train workers to provide weatherization services that meet federal Building  
3.15 Performance Institute certification requirements or Standard Work Specification  
3.16 requirements, as required by the program; and

3.17 (3) leverage nonstate funds or in-kind contributions.

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

3.19 Sec. 5. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.20 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner  
3.21 of commerce for supplemental state weatherization assistance grants under Minnesota  
3.22 Statutes, section 216C.264, subdivision 7. This appropriation must be dispersed over five  
3.23 years and is available until expended. This is a onetime appropriation.

3.24 (b) Ten percent of the appropriation under paragraph (a) is allocated to training grants  
3.25 under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.264, subdivision 8. Up to ten percent of the  
3.26 appropriation under paragraph (a) may be used to supplement utility spending on  
3.27 preweatherization measures as part of a low-income conservation program, as defined under  
3.28 Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.264, subdivision 1a. No more than one percent of the  
3.29 appropriation under paragraph (a) may be used for weatherization course development.