

MINNESOTA STATUTES 1979 SUPPLEMENT

362.12 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CHAPTER 362. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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362.12 Scope of departmental powers and duties.

[For text of subds 1 to 3, see M.S.1978]

Subd. 4. **Commissioner may enter into project agreements.** The commissioner may enter into project agreements with organizations or corporations for the purpose of developing the tourism potential of the state. If in the judgment of the commissioner a project will make a meaningful contribution to the tourism development of the state, he may enter into local or regional agreements. The commissioner shall not agree to pay more than 50 percent of the total annual project cost.

[1979 c 333 s 98]

362.20 Sale of pamphlets and publications; fees; advertising.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner may sell reports, publications, or related publicity or promotional material of the department that in his judgment should not be supplied gratis to those who wish to employ them in the conduct of their business.

Subd. 2. The commissioner shall recommend a schedule of fees pursuant to section 16A.128 to be charged for these materials and for services rendered by the department in furnishing them. The fees prescribed by the commissioner shall be commensurate with the distribution objective of the department for the material produced or with the cost of furnishing the services. All fees for materials and services shall be deposited in the general fund.

Subd. 3. Department publications may contain advertising and may receive advertising revenue from profit and nonprofit organizations, associations, individuals and corporations, and other state, federal or local government agencies. Advertising revenues shall be deposited in the general fund. The commissioner shall set advertising rates and fees commensurate with services rendered and distribution objectives.

[1979 c 333 s 99]

362.40 Loans to Indians living on and off reservation.

[For text of subds 1 to 8, see M.S.1978]

Subd. 9. A reservation resident desiring a loan for the purpose of starting a business enterprise, expanding an existing business, or for technical and management assistance, shall make application to the state department of economic development. The department shall prescribe the necessary forms and advise the prospective borrower as to the conditions under which his application may be expected to receive favorable consideration. The tribal council shall recommend to the department that the loan be accepted or rejected. The department shall approve or reject the application taking the tribal council recommendation into consideration. If the application is approved, the department shall forward the application, together with all relevant documents pertinent thereto, to the commissioner of finance, who shall draw his warrant in favor of the tribal council with appropriate notations identifying the borrower. The tribal council shall thereafter reimburse suppliers and vendors for purchases of equipment, real estate and inventory made by the borrower pursuant to the conditions or guidelines established by the state department of economic development. The tribal council shall maintain records of transactions for each borrower in a manner consistent with good accounting practice. Simple interest at two percent of the amount of the debt owed shall be charged. When any portion of a debt is repaid, the tribal council shall remit the amount so received plus interest paid thereon to the state treasurer through the department of economic develop-

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ment. The amount so received shall be credited to such reservation residents loan account. The tribal council shall secure a bond from a surety company, in favor of the state treasurer, in an amount equal to the maximum amount to the credit of such reservation residents loan account during the fiscal year. Additional money equal to ten percent of the total amount made available to any tribal council during the fiscal year shall be paid to such council prior to December 31 for the purpose of financing administrative costs.

Subd. 10. A nonreservation resident desiring to make a loan for the purpose of starting a business enterprise, or expanding an existing business, or for technical and management assistance shall make application to the state department of economic development, on forms prescribed by the department. The department is empowered to either accept or reject the application, based upon guidelines and conditions essentially similar to those used for the purpose of approving or rejecting reservation loans under subdivision 9. If the application is approved by the state department of economic development, the department shall forward the application, together with all the relevant documents pertinent thereto, to the commissioner of finance, who shall draw his warrant in favor of the commissioner of economic development, with appropriate notations identifying the borrower. The department of economic development shall thereafter reimburse suppliers and vendors for purchases of equipment, real estate and inventory made by the borrower pursuant to the conditions or guidelines established by the department. The department of economic development shall maintain records of transactions for each borrower in a manner consistent with good accounting practice. Simple interest at two percent shall be charged. When any portion of a debt is repaid, the department of economic development shall remit the amount so received plus interest paid thereon to the state treasurer. The amount so received shall be credited to the nonreservation residents loan account.

Subd. 11. Loans made under subdivisions 9 and 10 shall be limited to a period of 20 years, if made for the purpose of financing nonreal estate purchases. Loans made for the purpose of financing real estate purchases, where such real property is to be used for nonresidential purposes only, shall be limited to a period of 40 years, and shall be a lien on the real property so acquired. Under no circumstances shall the state take a position junior to third lien. In instances where it is impossible or undesirable to secure a lien against real property, the state may secure a lien against personal property for an amount equal to the face value of the loan.

[For text of subs 12 to 14, see M.S.1978]

[1979 c 333 s 100-102]

362.42 Business assistance.

The commissioner of economic development shall establish within the department a business assistance center. The center shall consist of (1) a bureau of small business which shall have as its sole function the provision of assistance to small businesses in the state and (2) a bureau of licenses to assist all businesses in obtaining state licenses and permits. This center shall be accorded at least equal status with the other major operating units within the department.

[1979 c 246 s 2]

362.44 Bureau of small business.

Subdivision 1. The bureau of small business within the business assistance center shall serve as a clearinghouse and referral service for information needed by small businesses including those operated by a socially or economically disadvantaged person.

Subd. 2. The bureau shall:

(a) Plan, promote, coordinate and execute activities of concern to the bureau of small business;

(b) Plan, direct and evaluate all management and technical assistance programs to insure an efficient and effective delivery of services to the small business community;

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(c) Determine and establish annual goals by implementing reporting requirements essential to the continual evaluation of the bureau of small business, and report each biennium to the appropriate legislative committees the results of the evaluation;

(d) Maintain a close and continued relationship with the director of the procurement program within the department of administration;

(e) Plan, coordinate and execute an up-to-date master file system that lists all assistance programs for small businesses from federal, state, non-governmental agencies, chambers of commerce, educational institutions, civic organizations and private industry; and

(f) Develop an information system, with due regard to privacy statutes, which will enable the commissioner and other state agencies to efficiently store, retrieve, analyze and exchange data regarding business development and growth in the state.

Subd. 3. The bureau may be assisted by small business assistance specialists. The specialists may provide information to small businesses concerning programs, functions, services, location and contact points of all educational institutions, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, private industrial associations and federal, state and local government agencies located or operating in the state with respect to small business activities.

A toll free telephone number shall be established so that all small business persons anywhere in the state can call the bureau office for assistance. An outreach program shall be established to make the existence of the bureau well known to its potential clientele throughout the state.

Subd. 4. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the responsibilities of the bureau of small business may include the following:

(a) Providing information and assistance with respect to laws, rules and regulations, forms, licenses and financing to persons who want to start or already operate a small business;

(b) Referring persons who want to start or already operate a small business to assistance programs sponsored by federal agencies, state agencies, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, community development groups, and private industry associations;

(c) Conducting research and providing data required by the state legislature;

(d) Developing and publishing materials on small business laws, rules and regulations, potential financing, licenses and other programs offered by federal, state and local agencies, non-governmental agencies and private sources;

(e) Collecting and disseminating information on state contracts, including the policies and procedures to submit bids for state contracts; and

(f) Developing a public awareness program through the use of newsletters, personal contacts, and electronic and print news media advertising state assistance programs for small businesses, including those programs specifically for socially disadvantaged small business persons.

[1979 c 246 s 3]

362.45 Bureau of business licenses.

Subdivision 1. The bureau of business licenses shall study all state licenses, including registrations, permits and related requirements, for the operation of a business within Minnesota. The bureau shall also study applications and forms not necessarily related to licenses, which are required by state agencies to operate a business within the state. All state agencies shall cooperate with and provide information to the bureau of business licenses in conducting the study. The bureau shall issue a preliminary report to the appropriate standing committee of the legislature no later than January 1, 1980, and shall issue its final report to the governor and legislature by January 1, 1981. The final report shall include, but need not be limited to, recommendations as to:

(a) Reducing the total number of licenses required to conduct business in the state;