

Budget for One Minnesota



Governor's Budget Recommendations: Minnesota Department of Commerce



2/28/2019

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The Governor's Budget for One Minnesota

Invest in Students Across Minnesota

- Governor Walz is committed to making Minnesota the "Education State." He believes every child deserves a high-quality education, regardless of their race or zip code.

Increase Access to Affordable, Comprehensive Health Coverage

- Every Minnesotan deserves access to quality health care at a price they can afford. That's why Governor Walz's budget includes funding to extend low-cost coverage to thousands of farmers, small business owners, and entrepreneurs.

Empower Our Communities with the Tools They Need to Succeed

- Governor Walz wants to ensure every community thrives across Minnesota. His budget expands access to affordable child care and housing, invests in infrastructure and broadband internet, and gives local leaders the tools they need to succeed.

Make Smart Choices for a Fair and Balanced Budget

- Governor Walz's budget makes smart choices to maintain what we have and to invest in the future, while maintaining a fair and balanced budget.

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Commerce Department Mission

- Protect the public interest.
- Advocate for Minnesota consumers.
- Ensure a strong, competitive, and fair marketplace.
- Strengthen Minnesota's economic future.
- Serve as a trusted public resource for consumers and businesses.

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What The Commerce Department Does

- Regulates over 22 industries
- Licenses approximately 350,000 professionals and businesses
- Provides consumer assistance
- Conducts fraud investigations
- Advocates for the public interest before regulatory bodies
- Delivers federal and state energy and telecommunications programs
- Ensures equitable commercial and financial transactions and reliable utility services

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Commerce Department Leadership

Commissioner: Steve Kelley

Deputy Commissioners:

- Anne O'Connor, Chief of Staff
- Fred Andersen (Acting), Insurance
- Joe Sullivan, Energy Resources
- Max Zappia, Financial Institutions

Chief Financial Officer:

Tim Jahnke

Assistant Commissioners:

- Katherine Blauvelt, Energy Resources
- Peter Brickwedde, Government and External Affairs
- Marty Fleischhacker, Enforcement

General Counsel:

Kathleen Finnegan

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Minnesota Department of Commerce

FY 2020-21 Biennial Budget Change Items

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State Energy Office Funding

Recommendation

- The Governor recommends \$500,000 annually from the General Fund to fund the State Energy Office (SEO) in the Division of Energy Resources.

Benefit

- The change item funds current FTEs working on energy resiliency, reliability, technical assistance and program management.
- Without additional funding, critical programs aimed at assuring a sustainable energy future for Minnesota, as well as providing program management support to Minnesota businesses and consumers cannot be sustained.
- Some highlights include:
 - Providing energy-related information to over 500,000 Minnesotans annually.
 - Leveraging nearly \$20 million in revolving loan programs for energy efficiency projects serving residential, business, nonprofit and public sectors.

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Solar on Schools

Recommendation

- The Governor recommends \$10,000,000 per year in FY20 and FY21 from the Renewable Development Account to fund grant applications by schools for a solar on schools program.

Benefit

- Nationally, energy costs are K-12 school districts' second highest operating budget expense, after personnel costs.
- A Solar on Schools program would reduce electric utility bill costs through increased efficiency of operations and access to less costly energy through on-site solar energy production.

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Litigation Expenses

Recommendation

- The Governor recommends \$1,485,000 in FY20 for litigation costs.

Benefit

- This change item will allow the State to pay court-ordered legal fees without compromising core services.

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Questions?

Megan Verdeja | Director of Government Affairs

Megan.Verdeja@state.mn.us | 651-539-1447