

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to energy; making clean energy occupations eligible for dual-training  
1.3 programs; establishing a weatherization apprenticeship grant program; specifying  
1.4 the uses of supplementary state weatherization grants; appropriating money;  
1.5 amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, sections 175.45, subdivisions 1, 2; 216C.264,  
1.6 subdivision 5; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216C.

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

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 175.45, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Duties; goal.** The commissioner of labor and industry shall convene  
1.10 industry representatives, identify occupational competency standards, and provide technical  
1.11 assistance to develop dual-training programs. The competency standards shall be identified  
1.12 for employment in occupations in advanced manufacturing, health care services, information  
1.13 technology, clean energy, and agriculture. Competency standards are not rules and are  
1.14 exempt from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14, and the provisions in section 14.386  
1.15 concerning exempt rules do not apply.

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

1.17 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 175.45, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

1.18 Subd. 2. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings  
1.19 given them:

1.20 (1) "clean energy" means:

1.21 (i) renewable energy, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph (c),  
1.22 clauses (1) to (3);

2.1 (ii) energy storage systems, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph  
2.2 (d), clauses (1) and (2); or

2.3 (iii) the installation of materials, measures, or devices in a building that result in a net  
2.4 reduction in the amount of energy used to heat the building;

2.5 (2) "competency standards" means the specific knowledge and skills necessary for a  
2.6 particular occupation; and

2.7 (2)(3) "dual-training program" means an employment-based earn-as-you-learn program  
2.8 where the trainee is employed by a participating employer and receives structured on-the-job  
2.9 training and technical instruction in accordance with the competency standards.

2.10 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 216C.264, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

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

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

2.18 (2) the installation of preweatherization measures, as defined in section 216B.2402,  
2.19 subdivision 20, established by the commissioner under section 216B.241, subdivision 7,  
2.20 paragraph (g);

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

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

2.25 (5) to enable projects in multifamily buildings to proceed even if they cannot comply  
2.26 with the federal requirement that projects must be completed within the same federal fiscal  
2.27 year in which they are begun;

2.28 (6) to address shortages of workers trained to provide weatherization services, including  
2.29 expanding training opportunities in existing and new training programs;

2.30 (7) to support the operation of the weatherization apprenticeship program under section  
2.31 216C.2641;

3.1 (8) to pay additional labor costs for the federal weatherization program; and

3.2 (9) as an incentive for the increased production of weatherized units.

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

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

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

3.9 Sec. 4. **[216C.2641] WEATHERIZATION APPRENTICESHIP GRANT PROGRAM.**

3.10 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner of commerce, in consultation with  
3.11 the commissioners of labor and industry and employment and economic development, shall  
3.12 establish a weatherization apprenticeship grant program to award grants to employers to  
3.13 assist with the costs associated with developing apprenticeship programs for careers in the  
3.14 weatherization industry.

3.15 Subd. 2. **Grants.** (a) The commissioner must award grants to employers through a  
3.16 competitive grant process.

3.17 (b) To receive grant funds, an employer must submit a written application to the  
3.18 commissioner, using a form developed by the commissioner.

3.19 (c) Employers may receive a grant of no more than \$5,000 per apprentice. An employer  
3.20 that receives a grant for an apprentice may not receive additional grants for that same  
3.21 apprentice in future years.

3.22 (d) Grant funds shall be used to pay costs associated with developing apprenticeship  
3.23 programs for careers in the weatherization industry. These costs may include  
3.24 apprenticeship-related supplies, materials, instruction, and infrastructure.

3.25 (e) In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner shall favor applications:

3.26 (1) that will provide the highest quality training to potential apprentices to prepare them  
3.27 for in-demand careers; and

3.28 (2) where the greatest portion of the estimated cost of the apprenticeship is met through  
3.29 nonstate funds and in-kind contributions.

3.30 Subd. 3. **Reports.** By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter, the commissioner  
3.31 must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the

4.1 house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over apprenticeships and  
 4.2 workforce development that details the use of grant funds under this section. This report  
 4.3 must include data on the number of apprenticeships created and the career progress of  
 4.4 apprentices supported by prior grants.

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

4.6 Sec. 5. **APPROPRIATION.**

4.7 \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of  
 4.8 commerce for the purposes of the supplemental state weatherization assistance program  
 4.9 established in Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.264. This appropriation remains available  
 4.10 until expended. Of this amount, \$..... is for transfer to the dual training account established  
 4.11 in Minnesota Statutes, section 136A.246, subdivision 10, for the purpose of funding dual  
 4.12 training competency grants to train employees to achieve competency standards in energy  
 4.13 efficiency occupations.

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