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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(1) "clean energy" means:

(i) renewable energy, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph (c), clauses (1) to (3);
(ii) energy storage systems, as defined in section 216B.2422, subdivision 1, paragraph (d), clauses (1) and (2); or

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(3) to increase the number of weatherized residences;

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

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

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

(7) to support the operation of the weatherization apprenticeship program under section 216C.2641;
(8) to pay additional labor costs for the federal weatherization program; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Subd. 3. **Reports.** By January 15, 2024, and each January 15 thereafter, the commissioner must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the
house of representatives and the senate having jurisdiction over apprenticeships and
workforce development that details the use of grant funds under this section. This report
must include data on the number of apprenticeships created and the career progress of
apprentices supported by prior grants.

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

Sec. 5. APPROPRIATION.

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

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