Overview

This bill provides for the creation of the Northern Technology Initiative, a public corporation intended to foster the growth of technology industries in east-central Minnesota. The bill outlines the provisions relating to the operations of the corporation as well as its functions and limitations.

1 Definitions. Defines terms.
2 Corporation; members; board of directors; powers.
   Subd. 1. Public corporation. Provides that Northern Technology Initiative, Inc. is a public corporation and not a state agency.
   Subd. 2. Purpose. Provides that the purpose of the initiative is for private and public entities to engage in a cooperative economic development project aimed at encouraging the growth of technology industries in the region served, which includes Carlton, Chisago, Isanti, Kanabec, and Pine counties.
   Subd. 3. Board of directors. Provides for a board of directors to be governed by the initiative's bylaws. Provides that the commissioner of trade and economic development, or an employee of the department, must be a board member.
   Subd. 4. Bylaws. Provides for the corporation to adopt bylaws.
   Subd. 5. Places of business. Provides that the board shall locate places of business within the project area.
   Subd. 6. Meetings and actions of board. Requires the board to meet at least twice a year.
   Subd. 7. Closed meetings; recording. Permits the board to hold a closed meeting for the purposes of discussing specified information, subject to the requirement that the proceedings of the closed meeting be taped. The tape would then be nonpublic data or private data on individuals under the data practices act.
   Subd. 8. Application and investigative data. Provides that certain financial and other data is
private or nonpublic data under the data practices act.

**Subd. 9. Conflict of interest.** Prohibits board members from voting on decisions relating to organizations in which they have an interest.

**Subd. 10. Tort claims.** Provides that the corporation is a state agency for the purposes of state law regarding tort claims against state entities.

**Subd. 11. Data practices and records management.** Requires the corporation to comply with the data practices act and with state law relating to preservation and disposal of public records.

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3 **Corporate personnel.**

**Subd. 1. Generally.** Provides for the board to appoint an executive director, and for the director to appoint staff consultants and other agents.

**Subd. 2. Status of employees.** Provides that employees, officers, and directors of the corporation are not state employees, but may participate in certain state benefit plans, with the board making the employer contribution.

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4 **Powers and duties of corporations.**

**Subd. 1. General powers and duties.** Permits the corporation to exercise the powers, and be subject to the usual regulation, of a nonprofit corporation. Provides that the state is not liable for the obligations of the corporation.

**Subd. 2. Rules.** Requires the corporation to publish its guidelines, policies, and eligibility criteria in the State Register.

**Subd. 3. Supporting organizations.** Allows the corporation to create and delegate authority to other entities.

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5 **Audits.** Provides that the corporation is subject to audit.

6 **Dissolution.** Provides for the distribution of assets of the corporation in the event of its dissolution.