

Tom Bottem, Director

Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W. Suite 3300
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1800
(651) 296-4791
www.senate.mn/scrfa

S.F. No. 1667 – Minnesota Efficient Technology Accelerator (As Amended by the A-1 Amendment)

Author: Senator Jason Rarick

Prepared by: Carlon Doyle Fontaine, Senate Counsel (651/296-4395)

Date: March 16, 2021

Section 1. Minnesota efficient technology accelerator. Paragraph (a) allows a nonprofit organization with experience implementing energy efficiency programs and conducting efficient technology research in Minnesota to file a proposal with the commissioner of commerce for a program to accelerate deployment and reduce the cost of emerging and innovative efficient technologies and approaches. Lists the activities of the accelerator, including engagement with technology manufacturers to improve the efficiency and performance of their products, equipment installers, and others in the technology supply chain.

Paragraph (b) requires the nonprofit to submit a notice of intent to file a proposal to the commissioner of commerce describing the eligibility and qualifications of the nonprofit and the commissioner to issue a determination of eligibility within 30 days.

Paragraph (c) requires the nonprofit to engage with stakeholders on: a proposed budget and operational guidelines; a proposed energy savings attribution, evaluation, and allocation methodology; a process to ensure that selected technologies benefit electric and natural gas utility customers in proportion to the funds each utility sector contributes to the program and address residential, commercial, and industrial building energy use; and a process for identifying and tracking performance metrics for each technology selected.

Paragraph (d) allows the nonprofit to file a program proposal no earlier than January 1, 2023. Specifies that a program may not be implemented prior to January 1, 2024. Provides that the initial program term may be up to five years, and is renewable by the commissioner for up to five year increments. Requires the nonprofit to submit a report on the program to the commissioner and legislature prior to renewal of the program.

Paragraph (e) requires each public utility with over 30,000 customers to participate in the approved program and contribute proportionally to the costs of the program as provided under the paragraph. Allows other utilities to participate in the accelerator program. Allows recovery of costs incurred by a public utility under the program as an assessment to the

energy and conservation account. Allows the commissioner to make expenditures from the energy and conservation account for purposes of the program.