

S.F. No. 1999 – Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority

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S.F. 1999 establishes a nonprofit corporation to provide financing and leverage private investment for clean energy and other qualified projects.

Section 1. Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority. Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** Provides definitions for terms used in this section.

Subd. 2. Establishment; purpose. Requires the Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority Task Force to establish the Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority as a nonprofit corporation by October 15, 2021. Provides that the purpose of the authority is to accelerate the deployment of clean energy and other qualified projects by reducing the upfront and total cost of adoption, achieved by leveraging existing public sources and additional private sources of capital through the strategic deployment of public funds in the form of loans, credit enhancements, and other financing mechanisms. Requires initial directors of the authority to include at least a majority of the members of the task force and the commissioners of commerce and employment and economic development or their designees. Requires the authority to:

- identify underserved markets for qualified projects in Minnesota, develop programs to overcome market impediments, and provide access to financing to serve projects and underserved markets;
- use authority funds to leverage private investment in qualified projects;
- coordinate with existing government- and utility-based programs;
- serve as a single point of access for customers, contractors who install energy conservation and renewable energy measures, and for financing to reduce costs to borrowers;
- develop rules, policies, and procedures specifying borrower eligibility and other terms and conditions of financial support;
- develop consumer protection standards governing the authority's investments;
- collect reasonable fees for authority services to support ongoing authority activities;
- adopt and update annually a workplan to accomplish required authority activities; and
- establish and maintain a website with information on authority programs and products

Subd. 3. Additional authorized activities. Authorizes the authority to develop and employ certain financing methods to support qualified projects, serve as the designated state entity to apply for and accept federal funds, and seek to qualify as a Community Development Financial Institution.

Subd. 4. Advisory task force; membership. Provides membership information and appointments for the advisory task force. Requires members to have expertise in energy conservation, clean energy, economic development, banking, law, finance, or other matters relevant to the work of the advisory task force as well as a geographic and ethnic balance.

Subd. 5. Report; audit. Requires the authority to submit a comprehensive annual report on the authority's activities to the governor and legislature by June 30, 2022, and annually thereafter. Specifies the information that must be included in the report.

Section 2. Appropriation. Appropriates \$30,000,000 onetime from the renewable development account to an unspecified commissioner for transfer to the advisory task force of the Minnesota Innovation Finance Authority. Allows up to \$50,000 to be used for administrative expenses of the advisory task force.