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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2771

03/09/2023 Authored by Acomb, Reyer, Berg, Hornstein, Newton and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to energy; establishing a program in the Department of Commerce to
1.3 award rebates for the purchase and installation of residential heat pumps;
1.4 establishing a program to train heat pump installers; appropriating money; proposing
1.5 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 216C.

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

1.7 Section 1. 216C.45 RESIDENTIAL HEAT PUMP REBATE PROGRAM.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.9 the meanings given.

1.10 (b) "Eligible applicant" means a person who provides evidence to the commissioner's
1.11 satisfaction demonstrating that the person has received or has applied for a heat pump rebate
1.12 available from the federal Department of Energy under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022,
1.13 Public Law 117-189.

1.14 (c) "Heat pump" means a cold climate rated air-source heat pump composed of (1) a
1.15 mechanism that heats and cools indoor air by transferring heat from outdoor or indoor air
1.16 using a fan, (2) a refrigerant-filled heat exchanger, and (3) an inverter-driven compressor
1.17 that varies the pressure of the refrigerant to warm or cool the refrigerant vapor.

1.18 Subd. 2. Establishment. A residential heat pump rebate program is established in the
1.19 Department of Commerce to provide financial assistance to eligible applicants that purchase
1.20 and install a heat pump in the applicant's Minnesota residence.

1.21 Subd. 3. Application. (a) An application for a rebate under this section must be made
1.22 to the commissioner on a form developed by the commissioner. The application must be
1.23 accompanied by documentation, as required by the commissioner, demonstrating that:

- 2.1 (1) the applicant is an eligible applicant;
- 2.2 (2) the applicant owns the Minnesota residence in which the heat pump is to be installed;
- 2.3 (3) the applicant has had an energy audit conducted of the residence in which the heat
- 2.4 pump is to be installed within the last 18 months by a person with a Building Analyst
- 2.5 Technician certification issued by the Building Performance Institute, Inc., or an equivalent
- 2.6 certification, as determined by the commissioner;
- 2.7 (4) either:
- 2.8 (i) the applicant has installed in the applicant's residence, by a contractor with an Air
- 2.9 Leakage Control Installer certification issued by the Building Performance Institute, Inc.,
- 2.10 or an equivalent certification, as determined by the commissioner, the amount of insulation
- 2.11 and the air sealing measures recommended by the auditor; or
- 2.12 (ii) the auditor has otherwise determined that the amount of insulation and air sealing
- 2.13 measures in the residence are sufficient to enable effective heat pump performance;
- 2.14 (5) the applicant has purchased a heat pump of the capacity recommended by the auditor
- 2.15 or contractor, and has had the heat pump installed by a contractor with sufficient training
- 2.16 and experience in installing heat pumps, as determined by the commissioner; and
- 2.17 (6) the total cost to purchase and install the heat pump in the applicant's residence.
- 2.18 (b) The commissioner must develop administrative procedures governing the application
- 2.19 and rebate award processes.
- 2.20 Subd. 4. **Rebate amount.** A rebate awarded under this section must not exceed the lesser
- 2.21 of:
- 2.22 (1) \$4,000; or
- 2.23 (2) the total cost to purchase and install the heat pump in an eligible applicant's residence
- 2.24 net of the rebate amount received for the heat pump from the federal Department of Energy
- 2.25 under the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, Public Law 117-189.
- 2.26 Subd. 5. **Assisting applicants.** The commissioner must issue a request for proposal
- 2.27 seeking an entity to serve as an energy coordinator to interact directly with applicants and
- 2.28 potential applicants to:
- 2.29 (1) explain the technical aspects of heat pumps, energy audits, and energy conservation
- 2.30 measures, and the energy and financial savings that can result from their implementation;

3.1 (2) identify federal, state, and utility programs available to homeowners to reduce the  
3.2 costs of energy audits, energy conservation, and heat pumps;

3.3 (3) explain the requirements and scheduling of the application process;

3.4 (4) provide access to certified contractors who can perform energy audits, install  
3.5 insulation and air sealing measures, and install heat pumps; and

3.6 (5) conduct outreach to make potential applicants aware of the program.

3.7 Subd. 6. **Contractor training and support.** The commissioner must issue a request for  
3.8 proposal seeking an entity to develop and organize programs to train contractors with respect  
3.9 to the technical aspects and installation of heat pumps in residences. The training curriculum  
3.10 must be at a level sufficient to provide contractors who complete training with the knowledge  
3.11 and skills necessary to install heat pumps to industry best practice standards, as determined  
3.12 by the commissioner. Training programs must: (1) be accessible in all regions of the state;  
3.13 and (2) provide mentoring and ongoing support, including continuing education and financial  
3.14 assistance, to trainees.

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

3.16 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.17 \$14,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner  
3.18 of commerce to implement the heat pump rebate program under Minnesota Statutes, section  
3.19 216C.44, and to reimburse the reasonable costs incurred by the department to administer  
3.20 the program. Of this amount:

3.21 (1) \$10,000,000 is to award rebates under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.44,  
3.22 subdivision 4;

3.23 (2) \$2,000,000 is to contract with an energy coordinator under Minnesota Statutes,  
3.24 section 216C.44, subdivision 5; and

3.25 (3) \$2,000,000 is to conduct contractor training and support under Minnesota Statutes,  
3.26 section 216C.44, subdivision 6.