

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to economic development; providing for the development of a virtual
1.3 assistance network for Minnesota entrepreneurs; proposing coding for new law
1.4 in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116J.

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

1.6 Section 1. [116J.6581] MINNESOTA ENTREPRENEUR RESOURCE VIRTUAL
1.7 NETWORK (MERNV).

1.8 (a) The commissioner shall seek sufficient private sector funding for the Office of
1.9 Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development (OESBD) to develop, maintain, and
1.10 market a virtual network to provide seamless access to statewide resources and expertise
1.11 for entrepreneurs and existing businesses using private sector funding. The network must
1.12 connect Minnesota entrepreneurs to available state and nonstate supported services and
1.13 technical assistance. In developing and maintaining the network, OESBD must ensure that
1.14 all listed resources meet established standards. The goal of the network is to assist in the
1.15 creation of new Minnesota ventures, the growth of existing businesses, and the ability of
1.16 Minnesota entrepreneurs to compete globally. To the greatest extent possible, the network
1.17 should be built on and linked to existing resources designed to make business assistance
1.18 resources more accessible to Minnesota business.

1.19 (b) Development of the network is subject to the authority of the Office of Enterprise
1.20 Technology in chapter 16E, including, but not limited to:

1.21 (1) evaluation and approval of the network as specified in section 16E.03,
1.22 subdivisions 3 and 4;

1.23 (2) review of the network to ensure compliance with security policies, guidelines,
1.24 and standards as specified in section 16E.03, subdivision 7; and

2.1 (3) assurance that the network complies with accessibility standards developed
2.2 under section 16E.03, subdivision 9.

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

2.4 Sec. 2. **REPORT.**

2.5 By September 30, 2010, the commissioner must report to the chairs and the lead
2.6 minority members of the committees of the legislature with responsibility for economic
2.7 development and state government finance on the department's plans and progress towards
2.8 the development of the network under section 116J.6581.