

CHAPTER 481—S.F.No. 2575

An act relating to economic development; regulating eligibility of farmers for the dislocated worker program; amending Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 268.975, subdivision 3.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 268.975, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **DISLOCATED WORKER.** "Dislocated worker" means an individual who is a resident of Minnesota at the time employment ceased or was working in the state at the time employment ceased and:

(1) has been terminated or who has received a notice of termination from public or private sector employment, is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to reemployment compensation, and is unlikely to return to the previous industry or occupation;

(2) has been terminated or has received a notice of termination of employment as a result of any plant closing or any substantial layoff at a plant, facility, or enterprise;

(3) has been long-term unemployed and has limited opportunities for employment or reemployment in the same or a similar occupation in the area in which the individual resides, including older individuals who may have substantial barriers to employment by reason of age; or

(4) has been self-employed, including farmers and ranchers, and is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters, subject to rules to be adopted by the commissioner; or

(5) has been self-employed as a farmer or rancher and, even though that employment has not ceased, has experienced a significant reduction in income due to inadequate crop or livestock prices, crop failures, or significant loss in crop yields due to pests, disease, adverse weather, or other natural phenomenon. This clause expires July 31, 2003.

Sec. 2. **TEMPORARY PRIORITY FOR CERTAIN FARMERS OR RANCHERS.**

In fiscal year 2001, the commissioner of economic security shall give priority for grants under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.9783, to proposals that provide retraining to dislocated workers eligible under Minnesota Statutes, section 268.975, subdivision 3, clause (5). The commissioner retains any existing authority to exercise discretion about making any grant and this section does not require the commissioner to make

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any specific grant. The match requirement of Minnesota Statutes, section 268.9783, subdivision 6, clause (1), does not apply to grants given preference under this section.

Presented to the governor May 11, 2000

Signed by the governor May 15, 2000, 10:54 a.m.

CHAPTER 482—S.F.No. 2893

An act relating to business subsidies; providing clarification to the obligation of government agencies and businesses related to certain business subsidies; amending Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, sections 116J.993, subdivision 3; 116J.994, subdivisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, and by adding a subdivision; and 116J.995.

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

Section 1, Minnesota Statutes 1999 Supplement, section 116J.993, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **BUSINESS SUBSIDY.** "Business subsidy" or "subsidy" means a state or local government agency grant, contribution of personal property, real property, infrastructure, the principal amount of a loan at rates below those commercially available to the recipient, any reduction or deferral of any tax or any fee, any guarantee of any payment under any loan, lease, or other obligation, or any preferential use of government facilities given to a business.

The following forms of financial assistance are not a business subsidy:

- (1) a business subsidy of less than \$25,000;
- (2) assistance that is generally available to all businesses or to a general class of similar businesses, such as a line of business, size, location, or similar general criteria;
- (3) public improvements to buildings or lands owned by the state or local government that serve a public purpose and do not principally benefit a single business or defined group of businesses at the time the improvements are made;
- (4) redevelopment property polluted by contaminants as defined in section 116J.552, subdivision 3;
- (5) assistance provided for the sole purpose of renovating old or decaying building stock or bringing it up to code and assistance provided for designated historic preservation districts, provided that the assistance is equal to or less than 50 percent of the total cost;
- (6) assistance provided to organizations whose primary mission is to provide job readiness and training services if the sole purpose of the assistance is to provide those services;
- (7) assistance for housing;

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