

Development and Planning

CHAPTER 116J

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT

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116J.01 DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT.

Subdivision 1. Appointment. The department of trade and economic development is supervised and controlled by the commissioner of trade and economic development, who is appointed by the governor and serves under section 15.06.

Subd. 2. Confidential secretary. The commissioner may appoint a confidential secretary in the unclassified service.

Subd. 3. Departmental organization. The commissioner shall organize the department as provided in section 15.06. The department must be organized into four divisions, designated as the business promotion and marketing division, the community development division, the policy analysis and science and technology division, and the Minnesota trade division, and the office of tourism. Each division and office shall

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administer the duties and functions assigned to it by law. When the duties of the divisions or office are not allocated by law, the commissioner may establish and revise the assignments of each division and office. Each division is under the direction of a deputy commissioner in the unclassified service. The deputy commissioner of the Minnesota trade division must be experienced and knowledgeable in matters of international trade.

Each office is under the direction of a director in the unclassified service.

Subd. 4. Appointment of director of the office of tourism. The director of the office of tourism shall be appointed by the governor.

History: 1981 c 356 s 64; 1983 c 289 s 40-42; 1984 c 558 art 4 s 3; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 14; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 136,137

116J.02 [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

116J.03 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. Scope. As used in this chapter, the terms defined in this section have the meaning given them.

Subd. 2. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of trade and economic development.

Subd. 3. Department. "Department" means the department of trade and economic development.

History: 1981 c 356 s 66,248; 1983 c 289 s 43; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 15

116J.035 DUTIES AND POWERS OF COMMISSIONER; RULES.

Subdivision 1. Powers. The commissioner may:

(a) apply for, receive, and expend money from municipal, county, regional, and other government agencies;

(b) apply for, accept, and disburse grants and other aids from other public or private sources;

(c) contract for professional services if such work or services cannot be satisfactorily performed by employees of the department or by any other state agency;

(d) enter into interstate compacts to jointly carry out such research and planning with other states or the federal government where appropriate;

(e) distribute informational material at no cost to the public upon reasonable request; and

(f) enter into contracts necessary for the performance of the commissioner's duties with federal, state, regional, metropolitan, local, and other agencies or units of government; educational institutions, including the University of Minnesota. Contracts made pursuant to this section shall not be subject to the competitive bidding requirements of chapter 16.

The commissioner may apply for, receive, and expend money made available from federal or other sources for the purpose of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner pursuant to this chapter.

All moneys received by the commissioner pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited in the state treasury and are appropriated to the commissioner for the purpose for which the moneys have been received. The money shall not cancel and shall be available until expended.

Subd. 2. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 14 as necessary to carry out the commissioner's duties and responsibilities pursuant to this chapter.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1987 c 403 art 2 s 164]

History: 1984 c 604 s 2; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 9 s 4; 1986 c 444

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- 116J.04** [Repealed, 1988 c 629 s 64].
- 116J.05** [Renumbered 216C.05]
- 116J.06** Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 1]
 - Subd. 2. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 2]
 - Subd. 3. [Renumbered 216B.2421 subd 2]
 - Subd. 4. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 3]
 - Subd. 5. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 4]
 - Subd. 6. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 5]
 - Subd. 7. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 6]
 - Subd. 8. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 7]
 - Subd. 9. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 8]
 - Subd. 10. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 9]
 - Subd. 11. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 10]
 - Subd. 12. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 11]
 - Subd. 13. [Renumbered 216C.06 subd 12]
- 116J.07** [Renumbered 216C.07]
- 116J.08** [Renumbered 216C.08]
- 116J.09** [Renumbered 216C.09]
- 116J.10** [Renumbered 216C.10]
- 116J.11** [Renumbered 216C.11]
- 116J.12** [Renumbered 216C.12]
- 116J.13** [Renumbered 216C.13]
- 116J.14** [Renumbered 216C.14]
- 116J.15** [Renumbered 216C.15]
- 116J.16** [Renumbered 216C.16]
- 116J.17** [Renumbered 216C.17]
- 116J.18** [Renumbered 216C.18]
- 116J.19** [Renumbered 216C.19]
- 116J.20** [Renumbered 216C.20]
- 116J.21** [Renumbered 216C.21]
- 116J.22** [Renumbered 216C.22]
- 116J.23** [Renumbered 216C.23]
- 116J.24** [Renumbered 216C.24]
- 116J.25** [Renumbered 216C.25]
- 116J.26** [Renumbered 216C.26]
- 116J.261** [Renumbered 216C.261]
- 116J.262** [Renumbered 216C.262]
- 116J.27** Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 1]
 - Subd. 2. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 2]
 - Subd. 3. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 3]
 - Subd. 4. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 4]
 - Subd. 4a. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 5]
 - Subd. 4b. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 6]
 - Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1983 c 301 s 235]
 - Subd. 6. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 7]
 - Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1983 c 301 s 235]
 - Subd. 8. [Renumbered 216C.27 subd 8]
- 116J.28** [Renumbered 216B.243]

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- 116J.29 [Renumbered 216C.29]
- 116J.30 [Renumbered 216C.30]
- 116J.31 [Renumbered 216C.31]
- 116J.315 [Renumbered 216C.315]
- 116J.32 [Renumbered 216C.32]
- 116J.33 [Renumbered 216C.33]
- 116J.34 [Renumbered 216C.34]
- 116J.35 [Renumbered 216C.35]
- 116J.36 [Renumbered 216C.36]
- 116J.37 [Renumbered 216C.37]
- 116J.373 [Renumbered 216C.373]
- 116J.38 [Renumbered 216C.38]
- 116J.381 [Renumbered 216C.381]
- 116J.40 [Renumbered 116K.01]

116J.401 POWERS AND DUTIES.

The commissioner of trade and economic development shall:

(1) provide regional development commissions, the metropolitan council, and units of local government with information, technical assistance, training, and advice on using federal and state programs;

(2) receive and administer the small cities community development block grant program authorized by Congress under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;

(3) receive and administer the section 107 technical assistance program grants authorized by Congress under the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended;

(4) receive and administer grants for the Minnesota jail resource center authorized by Congress under the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974, as amended;

(5) receive and administer the land and water conservation grant program authorized by Congress under the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965, as amended;

(6) receive and administer other state and federal grants and grant programs for planning, community affairs, community development purposes, and other state and federal programs assigned to the department by law or by the governor in accordance with section 4.07; and

(7) receive applications for state and federal grants and grant programs for planning, community affairs, and community development purposes, and other state and federal programs assigned to the department by law or by the governor in accordance with section 4.07.

History: 1984 c 558 art 4 s 4; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2.

116J.402 COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS.

The commissioner of trade and economic development may apply for, receive, and spend money for community development from municipal, county, regional, and other planning agencies. The commissioner may also apply for, accept, and disburse grants and other aids for community development and related planning from the federal government and other sources. The commissioner may enter into contracts with agencies of the federal government, local governmental units, regional development commissions, and the metropolitan council, other state agencies, the University of Minnesota, and other educational institutions, and private persons as necessary to perform the commissioner's duties. Contracts made according to this section, except those with private persons, are not subject to the provisions of chapter 16 concerning competitive bidding.

The commissioner may apply for, receive, and spend money made available from federal sources or other sources for the purposes of carrying out the duties and responsibilities of the commissioner relating to community development.

Money received by the commissioner under this section must be deposited in the state treasury and is appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes for which the money has been received. The money does not cancel and is available until spent.

History: 1984 c 558 art 4 s 5; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2

116J.403 RULES.

No money made available to the commissioner for the small cities community development block grant program shall be spent for community development and related planning programs until the commissioner adopts rules prescribing standards and procedures to govern the expenditure. The rules must be adopted under the administrative procedure act in chapter 14 and must conform with all terms and conditions imposed on the commissioner when the money is made available. The commissioner may adopt emergency rules under sections 14.29 to 14.36 so that the commissioner can carry out promptly the responsibilities for administering federally funded community development grant programs.

History: 1984 c 558 art 4 s 6; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1986 c 444

116J.404 [Repealed, 1987 c 312 art 1 s 25]

116J.405 [Repealed, 1987 c 312 art 1 s 25]

116J.406 GRANTS-IN-AID FOR RECREATIONAL BETTERMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings set forth, except as otherwise expressly provided or indicated by the context.

(a) "Athletic courts" means special surface areas and supporting equipment or structures such as nets, hoops, and walls which can be used for active games that have definite boundaries and are played on a marked surface, limited to basketball, volleyball, handball and tennis.

(b) "Metropolitan council" and "metropolitan area" have the meanings given them in section 473.121.

(c) "Units of government" means any county, city and home rule charter city, town, school district, public post-secondary educational institution, special park district, or any elected park and recreation board having control over parks, parkways, playgrounds, and trees in a city of the first class.

Subd. 2. **Grants for parks and trails.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government located within standard metropolitan statistical areas, as designated by the United States office of management and budget, but outside of the metropolitan area defined in section 473.121. The grants shall be for acquisition and betterment by units of government of public land and improvements needed for parks, trails, conservatories, zoos and other special use facilities having recreational significance for the entire population of the particular standard metropolitan statistical area. Appropriations made for this purpose shall be expended with the approval of the governor after consultation with the legislative advisory commission. The legislative commission on Minnesota resources shall make recommendations to the legislative advisory commission regarding the expenditures. The local contribution required shall be not less than ten percent. The program shall be administered so as to ensure the maximum possible use of available federal money.

Subd. 3. **Grants for trails in local parks.** The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government for the betterment of public land and improvements needed for recreational trails in parks owned and operated by units of government. A grant shall not exceed 40 percent of the costs of the betterment of the trail. To be eligible for a grant, a unit of government must provide at least ten percent of the costs of the betterment of the trail.

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Subd. 4. Grants for local outdoor athletic courts. The commissioner shall administer a program to provide grants to units of government for the betterment of public land and improvements needed for local athletic courts. A grant shall not exceed 50 percent of the costs of the betterment of the athletic court. To be eligible for a grant, a unit of government must provide at least 50 percent of the costs of the betterment of the athletic court. In making grants the commissioner shall consider, among other factors, evidence of cooperation between units of government, local need and available financial resources, and court locations that encourage maximum use, patronage, and availability.

Subd. 5. Powers; rules. The commissioner shall have all powers necessary and convenient in order to establish programs for recreational betterment grants-in-aid for parks, trails, and athletic courts pursuant to this section including, but not limited to, the authority to adopt rules for the programs, pursuant to chapter 14, and emergency rules to commence immediately the programs, pursuant to sections 14.05 to 14.36.

History: 1977 c 421 s 2; 1981 c 304 s 6; 1981 c 356 s 83-86,248; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 2; 1984 c 558 art 4 s 10; 1988 c 690 art 1 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 269

116J.41 [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

116J.42 Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116K.04, subdivision 1]

Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116K.04, subd 2]

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116K.04, subd 3]

Subd. 5. [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

Subd. 6. [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

Subd. 7. [Renumbered 116K.04, subd 4]

Subd. 8. [Renumbered 116K.04, subd 5]

Subd. 9. [Renumbered 116J.404]

116J.43 [Renumbered 116K.05]

116J.44 [Renumbered 116K.06]

116J.45 [Renumbered 116K.07]

116J.46 [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

116J.47 [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

116J.48 [Renumbered 116K.08]

116J.49 [Renumbered 116K.09]

116J.50 [Renumbered 116K.10]

116J.51 [Renumbered 116K.11]

116J.52 [Renumbered 116K.12]

116J.53 [Renumbered 116K.13]

116J.54 [Renumbered 116J.406]

DEVELOPMENT

116J.58 POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Enumeration.** The commissioner shall:

(1) investigate, study, and undertake ways and means of promoting and encouraging the prosperous development and protection of the legitimate interest and welfare of Minnesota business, industry, and commerce, within and outside the state;

(2) locate markets for manufacturers and processors and aid merchants in locating and contacting markets;

(3) investigate and study conditions affecting Minnesota business, industry, and commerce and collect and disseminate information, and engage in technical studies,

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scientific investigations, and statistical research and educational activities necessary or useful for the proper execution of the powers and duties of the commissioner in promoting and developing Minnesota business, industry, and commerce, both within and outside the state;

(4) plan and develop an effective business information service both for the direct assistance of business and industry of the state and for the encouragement of business and industry outside the state to use economic facilities within the state;

(5) compile, collect, and develop periodically, or otherwise make available, information relating to current business conditions;

(6) conduct or encourage research designed to further new and more extensive uses of the natural and other resources of the state and designed to develop new products and industrial processes;

(7) study trends and developments in the industries of the state and analyze the reasons underlying the trends; study costs and other factors affecting successful operation of businesses within the state; and make recommendations regarding circumstances promoting or hampering business and industrial development;

(8) serve as a clearing house for business and industrial problems of the state; and advise small business enterprises regarding improved methods of accounting and book-keeping;

(9) cooperate with interstate commissions engaged in formulating and promoting the adoption of interstate compacts and agreements helpful to business, industry, and commerce;

(10) cooperate with other state departments, and with boards, commissions, and other state agencies, in the preparation and coordination of plans and policies for the development of the state and for the use and conservation of its resources insofar as the use, conservation, and development may be appropriately directed or influenced by a state agency;

(11) assemble and coordinate information relative to the status, scope, cost, and employment possibilities and the availability of materials, equipment, and labor in connection with public works projects, state, county, and municipal; recommend limitations on the public works; gather current progress information with reference to public and private works projects of the state and its political subdivisions with reference to conditions of employment; inquire into and report to the governor, when requested by the governor, with respect to any program of public state improvements and the financing thereof; and request and obtain information from other state departments or agencies as may be needed properly to report thereon;

(12) study changes in population and current trends and prepare plans and suggest policies for the development and conservation of the resources of the state;

(13) confer and cooperate with the executive, legislative, or planning authorities of the United States and neighboring states and of the counties and municipalities of such neighboring states, for the purpose of bringing about a coordination between the development of such neighboring states, counties, and municipalities and the development of this state;

(14) generally, gather, compile, and make available statistical information relating to business, trade, commerce, industry, transportation, communication, natural resources, and other like subjects in this state, with authority to call upon other departments of the state for statistical data and results obtained by them and to arrange and compile that statistical information in a manner that seems wise;

(15) publish documents and annually convene regional meetings to inform businesses, local government units, assistance providers, and other interested persons of changes in state and federal law related to economic development; and

(16) annually convene conferences of providers of economic development related financial and technical assistance for the purposes of exchanging information on economic development assistance, coordinating economic development activities, and formulating economic development strategies.

Subd. 2. **Promotional contracts.** In order to best carry out duties and responsibilities and to serve the people of the state in the promotion of tourism, trade, and economic development, the commissioner may engage in programs and projects jointly with a private person, firm, corporation or association and may enter into contracts under terms to be mutually agreed upon to carry out such programs and projects not including acquisition of land or buildings. Contracts may be negotiated and are not subject to the provisions of chapter 16B relating to competitive bidding.

Subd. 3. **Commissioner may enter into project agreements.** The commissioner may enter into project agreements with organizations or corporations for the purpose of developing the tourism potential of the state. If in the judgment of the commissioner a project will make a meaningful contribution to the tourism development of the state, the commissioner may enter into local or regional agreements.

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1986 c 465 art 1 s 31]

History: 1947 c 587 s 6; 1967 c 299 s 5; 1979 c 333 s 98; 1981 c 284 s 1; 1981 c 356 s 207,248; 1983 c 289 s 54; 1984 c 582 s 1,23; 1984 c 640 s 32; 1985 c 248 s 30; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 8 s 63; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 16; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 140

116J.59 IMPREST FUNDS, USE.

The commissioner of trade and economic development may use the money in the imprest fund of the department in order to facilitate and expedite its business particularly in the making of advances of moneys to officers and employees of the department and members of the advisory committee for the purpose of defraying the expenses of travel, subsistence, and other similar expenses, and in meeting emergencies, and in accordance with such requirements therefor as may be prescribed by the commissioner of finance. The imprest fund shall be reimbursed for all moneys advanced in the manner prescribed by the rules of the commissioner of administration.

History: 1967 c 299 s 8; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2

116J.60 PROMOTIONAL EXPENSES.

In the promotion of tourism, trade, and economic development of the state, the commissioner of trade and economic development may expend money appropriated by the legislature for these purposes in the same manner as private persons, firms, corporations, and associations make expenditures for these purposes. An expenditure for food, lodging, or travel is not governed by the travel rules of the commissioner of employee relations. No money shall be expended for the appearance in radio or television broadcasts by an elected public official.

History: Ex1967 c 48 s 84; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1977 c 455 s 84; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1983 c 289 s 55; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 17

116J.61 ADDITIONAL POWERS AND DUTIES.

The commissioner shall:

- (1) have control of the work of carrying on a continuous program of education for business people;
- (2) publish, disseminate, and distribute information and statistics;
- (3) promote and encourage the expansion and development of markets for Minnesota products;
- (4) promote and encourage the location and development of new business in the state as well as the maintenance and expansion of existing business and for that purpose cooperate with state and local agencies and individuals, both within and outside the state;
- (5) advertise and disseminate information as to natural resources, desirable locations, and other advantages for the purpose of attracting business to locate in this state;
- (6) aid the various communities in this state in getting business to locate therein;

(7) advise and cooperate with municipal, county, regional, and other planning agencies and planning groups within the state for the purpose of promoting coordination between the state and localities as to plans and development in order to maintain a high level of gainful employment in private profitable production and achieve commensurate advancement in social and cultural welfare; coordinate the activities of statewide and local planning agencies, correlate information secured from them and from state departments and disseminate information and suggestions to the planning agencies; and encourage and assist in the organization and functioning of local planning agencies where none exist; and may provide at the request of any governmental subdivision hereinafter mentioned planning assistance, which includes but is not limited to surveys, land use studies, urban renewal plans, technical services and other planning work to any city or other municipality in the state or perform similar planning work in any county, metropolitan or regional area in the state. The commissioner shall not perform the planning work with respect to a metropolitan or regional area which is under the jurisdiction for planning purposes of a county, metropolitan, regional or joint planning body, except at the request or with the consent of the respective county, metropolitan, regional or joint planning body. The commissioner is authorized to receive and expend money from municipal, county, regional and other planning agencies; and may accept and disburse grants and other aids for planning purposes from the federal government and from other public or private sources, and may utilize moneys so received for the employment of consultants and other temporary personnel to assist in the supervision or performance of planning work supported by money other than state appropriated money, and may enter into contracts with agencies of the federal government, units of local government or combinations thereof, and with private persons that are necessary in the performance of the planning assistance function of the commissioner. The commissioner may assist any local government unit in filling out application forms for the federal grants-in-aid. In furtherance of their planning functions, any city or town, however organized, may expend money and contract with agencies of the federal government, appropriate departments of state government, other local units of government and with private persons; and

(8) adopt measures calculated to promote public interest in and understanding of the problems of planning and, to that end, may publish and distribute copies of any plan or any report and may employ other means of publicity and education that will give full effect to the provisions of sections 116J.58 to 116J.63.

History: 1947 c 587 s 7; 1957 c 842 s 1; 1959 c 598 s 1; 1969 c 1129 art 3 s 2; 1971 c 24 s 41; 1973 c 123 art 5 s 7; 1981 c 356 s 208,248; 1983 c 289 s 56; 1984 c 604 s 3; 1986 c 444

116J.613 [Renumbered 116K.14]

116J.615 OFFICE OF TOURISM.

Subdivision 1. **Duties of director.** The director of tourism shall:

- (1) publish, disseminate, and distribute informational and promotional literature;
- (2) promote and encourage the expansion and development of international tourism marketing;
- (3) advertise and disseminate information about travel opportunities in the state of Minnesota;
- (4) aid various local communities to improve their tourism marketing programs;
- (5) coordinate and implement a comprehensive state tourism marketing program that takes into consideration all public and private businesses and attractions;
- (6) conduct market research and analysis to improve marketing techniques in the area of tourism;
- (7) investigate and study conditions affecting Minnesota's tourism industry, collect and disseminate information, and engage in technical studies, scientific investigations, and statistical research and educational activities necessary or useful for the

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proper execution of the powers and duties of the director in promoting and developing Minnesota's tourism industry, both within and outside the state;

(8) apply for, accept, receive, and expend any funds for the promotion of tourism in Minnesota. All money received by the director under this subdivision shall be deposited in the state treasury and is appropriated to the director for the purposes for which the money has been received. The money does not cancel and is available until expended; and

(9) plan and conduct information and publicity programs to attract tourists, visitors, and other interested persons from outside the state to this state; encourage and coordinate efforts of other public and private organizations or groups of citizens to publicize facilities and attractions in this state; and work with representatives of the hospitality and tourism industry to carry out its programs.

Subd. 2. **Art and historical exhibitions.** In order to promote tourism, trade, and cultural enrichment, the director of tourism may arrange for the exhibition of art collections and historical displays from other nations in the state capitol and in other public buildings throughout the state of Minnesota. The director of tourism shall cooperate with the state historical society in implementing this cultural exchange program and may enter into any contracts or joint ventures that are necessary to achieve the objectives of this section.

Subd. 3. **Regional tourism offices.** Employees in regional tourism offices are in the unclassified civil service.

History: 1983 c 289 s 57; 1988 c 686 art 1 s 63

116J.616 SPECIFIC AGREEMENTS PROHIBITED.

The commissioner or director of tourism may not enter into an agreement which would obligate the state to pay any part of a debt incurred by a public or private facility, organization, or attraction.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 138

116J.617 TOURISM LOAN PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner may establish a tourism revolving loan program to provide loans or participate in loans to resorts, campgrounds, lodging facilities, and other tourism-related businesses. The commissioner shall work with financial institutions in making or participating in loans under this section.

Subd. 2. **Eligible borrower.** To receive a loan under this section, the borrower must be a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, or other person engaged in a tourism-related business or other entity that is defined by the standard industrial classification codes of 7011 and 7033 as set out in the Code of Federal Regulations, title 13, section 121.2. An eligible borrower under this section must maintain the business or other entity as a tourism-related entity as defined by this subdivision during the term of the loan. An eligible borrower may not receive a loan under this section if the borrower has received a tourism-related loan made by the state or participated in by the state in the past three years.

Subd. 3. **Eligible loan.** The maximum loan made or participated in under this section may not be for more than 50 percent of the total cost of the project. Loan proceeds may be used for the following purposes: building construction and improvement, site improvement, equipment, other construction costs, and engineering costs. Project-related expenditures made more than 30 days before an application may not be financed by a loan made or participated in under this section.

Subd. 4. **Loan terms.** The maximum term of a loan made or participated in under this section may not exceed the useful life of the real property or 80 percent of the useful life of the equipment or machinery, or the following limits, whichever is less:

- (1) ten years for land, building, or other real property;
- (2) five years for equipment or machinery; or

(3) a weighted average of the limits under clauses (1) and (2) for loans made or participated in for a combination of real property and equipment or machinery.

The commissioner may establish interest rates for loans made under this section. All loans made must be secured by collateral.

Subd. 5. Tourism loan account. The tourism loan account is created in the special revenue fund. The fund consists of money appropriated or transferred to the account and interest collected through the tourism revolving loan program, and gifts, donations, and bequests made to the account. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner for purposes of this section. Fees collected through the tourism revolving loan program must be credited to the general fund.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1, s 139

116J.62 [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]

116J.63 SALE OF PAMPHLETS AND PUBLICATIONS; FEES; ADVERTISING.

Subdivision 1. The commissioner may sell reports, publications, or related publicity or promotional material of the department that the commissioner determines should not be supplied gratis to those who wish to employ them in the conduct of their business.

Subd. 2. Fees for reports, publications, or related publicity or promotional material are not subject to the rulemaking requirements of chapter 14 and are not subject to sections 16A.128 and 16A.1281. The fees prescribed by the commissioner must be commensurate with the distribution objective of the department for the material produced or with the cost of furnishing the services. All fees for materials and services must be deposited in the general fund.

Subd. 3. Department publications may contain advertising and may receive advertising revenue from profit and nonprofit organizations, associations, individuals and corporations, and other state, federal or local government agencies. Advertising revenues shall be deposited in the general fund. The commissioner shall set advertising rates and fees commensurate with services rendered and distribution objectives.

Subd. 4. The office of tourism may market tourism-related publications and media promotional material to businesses and organizations. The proceeds from the marketing must be placed in a special account and are appropriated to the commissioner to prepare and distribute the office's publications and media promotional materials.

History: 1947 c 587 s 14; 1979 c 333 s 99; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 19; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 141

116J.64 LOANS TO INDIANS.

Subdivision 1. For purposes of this section the following terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them herein.

Subd. 2. "Indian" means a person of one-quarter or more Indian blood and who is an enrolled member of a federally recognized Minnesota based band or tribe.

Subd. 3. "Person" means an individual Indian, or a partnership comprising Indians only, or a corporation whose stock is owned wholly by Indians.

Subd. 4. "Tribal council" means the reservation business committee or equivalent duly constituted tribal authority.

Subd. 5. "Agency" means the Indian affairs council.

Subd. 6. The remaining 20 percent of the tax revenue received by the county auditor under section 273.165, subdivision 1, shall be remitted by the county auditor to the state treasurer and shall be deposited in an account in the special revenue fund. The account is established under the jurisdiction and control of the agency, which may engage in a business loan program for American Indians as that term is defined in subdivision 2. The tribal councils may administer the account, provided that, before making any eligible loans, each tribal council must submit to the agency, for its review and

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approval, a plan for that council's loan program which specifically describes, as to that program, its content, utilization of money, administration, operation, implementation, and other matters required by the agency. All such programs must provide for a reasonable balance in the distribution of money appropriated pursuant to this section to make business loans between Indians residing on and off the reservations within the state. As a condition to the making of such eligible loans, the tribal councils shall enter into a loan agreement and other contractual arrangements with the agency to carry out this chapter, and shall agree that all official books and records relating to the business loan program shall be subject to audit by the legislative auditor in the same manner prescribed for agencies of state government.

Whenever money is appropriated by the state treasurer to the agency solely for the purposes in this subdivision, the agency shall record in the Indian business loan account the receipt and disbursement of the money and of the income, gain and loss from the investment and reinvestment of the money.

Subd. 7. An Indian desiring a loan for the purpose of starting a business enterprise, expanding an existing business, or for technical and management assistance, shall make application to the Indian affairs council. The Indian affairs council shall prescribe the necessary forms and advise the prospective borrower as to the conditions under which the application may be expected to receive favorable consideration. The application shall be forwarded to the appropriate tribal council, if it is participating in the program, for approval or disapproval, and shall be in conformity with the plans submitted by said tribal councils. If the tribal council is not participating in the program, the Indian affairs council may directly administer the loan. If the application is approved, the Indian affairs council shall forward the application, together with all relevant documents pertinent thereto, to the commissioner of finance, who shall draw a warrant in favor of the applicable tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, with appropriate notations identifying the borrower. The tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, shall thereafter reimburse suppliers and vendors for purchases of equipment, real estate and inventory made by the borrower pursuant to the conditions or guidelines established by the Indian affairs council. The tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, shall maintain records of transactions for each borrower in a manner consistent with good accounting practice. Simple interest at two percent of the amount of the debt owed shall be charged. When any portion of a debt is repaid, the tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, shall remit the amount so received plus interest paid thereon to the state treasurer through the Indian affairs council. The amount so received shall be credited to the Indian business loan account. The tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, shall secure a fidelity bond from a surety company, in favor of the state treasurer, in an amount equal to the maximum amount to the credit of its loan account during the fiscal year. On the placing of a loan, additional money equal to ten percent of the total amount made available to any tribal council or the Indian affairs council, if it is administering the loan, for loans during the fiscal year shall be paid to the council prior to December 31 for the purpose of financing administrative costs.

Subd. 8. Loans made under subdivision 7 shall be limited to a period of 20 years, if made for the purpose of financing nonreal estate purchases. Loans made for the purpose of financing real estate purchases, where such real property is to be used for non-residential purposes only, shall be limited to a period of 40 years, and shall be a lien on the real property so acquired. Under no circumstances shall the state take a position junior to third lien. In instances where it is impossible or undesirable to secure a lien against real property, the state may secure a lien against personal property for an amount equal to the face value of the loan.

Subd. 9. Any person misrepresenting facts regarding the Indian ancestry of a prospective borrower for the purpose of securing a loan under subdivision 7, whether such borrower be an individual, partnership or corporation, shall be guilty of a gross misdemeanor.

Subd. 10. The county auditor shall remit the tax revenue received yearly to the state treasurer as required by subdivision 6 no later than December 15.

Subd. 11. There is appropriated annually an amount equal to the tax revenue allotted under subdivision 7.

History: 1973 c 254 s 3; 1973 c 492 s 14; 1973 c 650 art 20 s 4; 1977 c 430 s 25 subd 1; 1979 c 333 s 100-102; 1980 c 391 s 1-3; 1981 c 308 s 1-7; 1981 c 356 s 210,211,248; 1982 c 424 s 128; 1984 c 558 art 4 s 1,2; 1Sp1985 c 14 art 4 s 16; 1986 c 444; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 47; 1989 c 356 s 27

116J.645 MINNESOTA NATURAL WILD RICE PROMOTION ADVISORY COUNCIL.

The Minnesota natural wild rice promotion advisory council is established for the promotion and marketing of hand-harvested natural lake or river wild rice. The commissioner of trade and economic development, with recommendations from American Indian tribes as defined in section 254B.01, subdivision 2, shall appoint the members of the advisory council. The advisory council must include representatives of natural wild rice hand harvesters, natural wild rice processors, and natural wild rice dealers who are enrolled members of American Indian tribes as defined in section 254B.01, subdivision 2, who are Minnesota residents. Members of the advisory council shall serve for four-year terms and section 15.059, subdivisions 2 and 4, shall apply to members of the advisory council. Members of the advisory council may not receive per diem and may not be reimbursed for expenses. The department of trade and economic development shall provide technical assistance to the advisory council relating to the marketing of natural wild rice. The advisory council functions shall include but not be limited to addressing the issues of trademarking, labeling, packaging, consumer awareness, and marketing techniques necessary to the successful promotion of the exclusive and original nature of the home-grown Minnesota product.

The advisory council shall advise the department of trade and economic development annually of its activities and progress in this regard.

History: 1990 c 515 s 2

116J.65 [Renumbered 116M.04]

116J.66 BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.

The commissioner shall establish within the department a business assistance center. The center shall consist of (1) a bureau of small business which shall have as its sole function the provision of assistance to small businesses in the state and (2) a bureau of licenses to assist all businesses in obtaining state licenses and permits. This center shall be accorded at least equal status with the other major operating units within the department.

History: 1978 c 709 s 2; 1979 c 246 s 2; 1981 c 356 s 214,248

116J.67 [Renumbered 116M.05]

116J.68 BUREAU OF SMALL BUSINESS.

Subdivision 1. The bureau of small business within the business assistance center shall serve as a clearinghouse and referral service for information needed by small businesses including small targeted group businesses and small businesses located in an economically disadvantaged area.

Subd. 2. The bureau shall:

(a) provide information and assistance with respect to all aspects of business planning and business management related to the start-up, operation, or expansion of a small business in Minnesota;

(b) refer persons interested in the start-up, operation, or expansion of a small business in Minnesota to assistance programs sponsored by federal agencies, state agencies,

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educational institutions, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, community development groups, private industry associations, and other organizations or to the business assistance referral system established by the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation;

(c) plan, develop, and implement a master file of information on small business assistance programs of federal, state, and local governments, and other public and private organizations so as to provide comprehensive, timely information to the bureau's clients;

(d) employ staff with adequate and appropriate skills and education and training for the delivery of information and assistance;

(e) seek out and utilize, to the extent practicable, contributed expertise and services of federal, state, and local governments, educational institutions, and other public and private organizations;

(f) maintain a close and continued relationship with the director of the procurement program within the department of administration so as to facilitate the department's duties and responsibilities under sections 16B.19 to 16B.22 relating to the small targeted group business and economically disadvantaged business program of the state;

(g) develop an information system which will enable the commissioner and other state agencies to efficiently store, retrieve, analyze, and exchange data regarding small business development and growth in the state. All executive branch agencies of state government and the secretary of state shall to the extent practicable, assist the bureau in the development and implementation of the information system;

(h) establish and maintain a toll free telephone number so that all small business persons anywhere in the state can call the bureau office for assistance. An outreach program shall be established to make the existence of the bureau well known to its potential clientele throughout the state. If the small business person requires a referral to another provider the bureau may use the business assistance referral system established by the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation;

(i) conduct research and provide data as required by state legislature;

(j) develop and publish material on all aspects of the start-up, operation, or expansion of a small business in Minnesota;

(k) collect and disseminate information on state procurement opportunities, including information on the procurement process;

(l) develop a public awareness program through the use of newsletters, personal contacts, and electronic and print news media advertising about state assistance programs for small businesses, including those programs specifically for socially disadvantaged small business persons;

(m) publicize to small businesses section 14.115 which requires consideration of small business issues in state agency rulemaking;

(n) enter into agreements with the federal government and other public and private entities to serve as the statewide coordinator or host agency for the federal small business development center program under United States Code, title 15, section 648;

(o) establish an evaluation mechanism to determine if assistance providers have adequate expertise and resources to deliver quality services. Evaluation of assistance providers may be based on the ability of the provider to offer the advertised service, the training and experience of the provider, and the formal evaluation process used by the provider. The evaluation mechanism must be designed so that the business assistance referral system established by the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation may use the results of the evaluation in providing clients with referrals to providers; and

(p) assist providers in the evaluation of their programs and the assessment of their service area needs. The bureau may establish model evaluation techniques and performance standards for providers to use.

Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1984 c 604 s 5]

Subd. 4. [Repealed, 1984 c 604 s 5]

History: 1979 c 246 s 3; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1984 c 604 s 5; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 142; 1989 c 352 s 8,25; 1990 c 541 s 11,29

116J.69 UNIFORM BUSINESS LICENSING POLICY.

Subdivision 1. **Finding.** The legislature finds that a uniform policy on business licenses is necessary to maintain an adequate level of protection of the public welfare while preventing business licensing from becoming overly burdensome for the citizens and businesses of Minnesota.

Subd. 2. **Policy.** It is the policy of the state of Minnesota that to the extent practicable, when required, a business license:

(a) Should be necessary to protect the safety, health or welfare of the citizens of the state or to ensure fair competition, competency in business, responsible financial practices, or other ethical business conduct;

(b) Should not duplicate or significantly overlap any other business license;

(c) Should be issued and renewed for the longest period possible consistent with the need to review eligibility and compliance with the terms and conditions of the license;

(d) Should contain a termination or renewal date determined by the agency to be as convenient as possible for the license holder consistent with clause (c). When an agency issues more than one license to the same business these licenses should have the same calendar renewal date; and

(e) Should involve payment of a fee in an amount no greater than specified by statute. If a fee is authorized by statute and set by rule, the fee shall be no greater than necessary to recover the administrative cost of issuing or renewing the license or enforcing its terms and conditions. The fees and conditions may be different for different classes of businesses and for initial issuance and subsequent renewals.

History: 1981 c 342 art 2 s 2; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.691 MINNESOTA PROJECT OUTREACH CORPORATION.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purpose.** The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation is established as a nonprofit public corporation under chapter 317A and is subject to the provisions of that chapter. The corporation is not a state agency. The purpose of the corporation is to (i) facilitate the transfer of technology and scientific advice from the University of Minnesota and other institutions to businesses in the state that may make economic use of the information; and (ii) to assist small and medium-sized businesses in finding technical and financial assistance providers that meet their needs.

Subd. 2. **Board of directors; employees.** The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall be governed by a nine-member board of directors consisting of the president of the University of Minnesota or the president's designee, the commissioner of trade and economic development or the commissioner's designee, the chair of the Greater Minnesota Corporation board of directors or the chair's designee, the president of the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation, a member of the state senate appointed by the subcommittee on committees of the senate rules and administration committee, a member of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker, a person who has experience with small manufacturing firms located outside the metropolitan area, a person who has experience with medium-sized manufacturing firms located in the metropolitan area, one of which must be actively engaged in manufacturing, and a private sector person representing the general public. The governor shall appoint the representatives of the manufacturing firms and the general public. Vacancies on the board for the members who are appointed by the governor shall be filled by the board until the respective term expires. The president of the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall be appointed by at least a two-thirds majority of the other members of the board.

The terms of the directors appointed by the governor shall be three years. The directors appointed by the governor shall serve until their successors are appointed and qualify. The board may elect a chair and form committees of the board. The officers and any employees of the corporation are not state employees.

Subd. 3. **Articles of incorporation.** The articles of incorporation of the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation must be filed with the secretary of state under chapter

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317A and must be consistent with the duties of the corporation under subdivision 4 and the other provisions of this section.

Subd. 4. Duties. The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall:

(1) establish a technology assistance system to assist business, specifically new and other small and medium-sized businesses across the state, in gaining access to technical information, including but not limited to technologies developed by the University of Minnesota and other higher education systems and their personnel; and in gaining access to technology-related federal programs;

(2) establish and maintain a data base or data bases that provide information for the technology assistance system under clause (1) that may include information on (i) science and technology experts, (ii) technical research projects underway at public higher education institutions in the state, (iii) licensable technology available at public higher education institutions in the state, (iv) access to federal technology and technical information, and (v) access to technical and business education;

(3) provide literature search and document retrieval services through the technology assistance system under clause (1);

(4) establish and continually update a business assistance referral system which includes a data base of economic development related technical assistance and financial assistance providers or programs sponsored by federal agencies, state agencies, educational institutions, chambers of commerce, civic organizations, community development groups, local governments, private industry associations, and other organizations and individuals that provide assistance;

(5) establish and maintain or contract for the establishment of a toll-free telephone number operated by trained staff familiar with the business assistance referral system and data base;

(6) maintain a marketing and outreach program informing persons interested in starting, operating, or expanding small business and assistance providers of the technology assistance system and the business assistance referral system;

(7) establish, where possible, regional bases and referral systems for the business assistance referral system; and

(8) make available the data base of the business assistance referral system to the legislature, the department of trade and economic development, and other state agencies for evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of the provision of economic development-related technical and financial assistance in the state.

Subd. 5. State agency cooperation. The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall consult with the department of trade and economic development in the development and marketing of the business assistance referral system. The corporation shall assist the department of trade and economic development in establishing an evaluation mechanism for the business assistance referral system which at least includes a process for determining the effectiveness of the economic development related technical or financial assistance provider's service in meeting the needs of the client referred to the provider.

Subd. 6. Charges to clients. (a) The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation may charge reasonable fees to a client for the technology assistance system. The corporation shall establish a fee structure for the technology assistance system and may base the fee structure on the type of service provided, the size of the client based on number of employees or amount of annual revenues, the length of time the client has been in operation, and other criteria.

(b) The corporation shall provide the business assistance referral system at no cost to the client and may not charge the client a fee or any other compensation for the referral to a provider. This subdivision does not prohibit the technical or financial assistance provider from charging a fee or other compensation to a client that has been referred to the provider by the business assistance referral system.

Subd. 7. Advisory committees. The board of directors of the Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation may appoint advisory committees to assist in selecting vendors and evaluating the corporation's activities.

Subd. 8. **Annual report.** The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall submit an annual report by January 15 of each year to the appropriations, finance, and economic development committees of the legislature, the governor, the Greater Minnesota Corporation, and the University of Minnesota. The report must include a description of the corporation's activities for the past year, a listing of the contracts entered into by the corporation, and a summary of the corporation's expenditures.

Subd. 9. **Audit.** The Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation shall contract with a certified public accounting firm to perform a financial and compliance audit of the corporation and any subsidiary annually in accordance with generally accepted accounting standards.

History: 1989 c 304 s 137; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 143; 1990 c 423 s 1-3

116J.692 REGISTERED NAME.

Notwithstanding section 317.09, the secretary of state shall register the name "Minnesota Project Outreach Corporation" on behalf of the corporation.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 144

116J.70 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Application.** For the purposes of sections 116J.69 to 116J.71, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Business license.** "Business license" or "license" means any permit, registration, certification, or other form of approval authorized by statute or rule to be issued by any agency or instrumentality of the state of Minnesota as a condition of doing business in Minnesota. The term also includes, when applicable, the substantive and procedural criteria governing the qualifications for, and issuance and maintenance of, a business license.

Subd. 2a. **License; exceptions.** "Business license" or "license" does not include the following:

(1) any occupational license or registration issued by a licensing board listed in section 214.01 or any occupational registration issued by the commissioner of health pursuant to section 214.13;

(2) any license issued by a county, home rule charter city, statutory city, township, or other political subdivision;

(3) any license required to practice the following occupation regulated by the following sections:

(a) abstracters regulated pursuant to chapter 386;

(b) accountants regulated pursuant to chapter 326;

(c) adjusters regulated pursuant to chapter 72B;

(d) architects regulated pursuant to chapter 326;

(e) assessors regulated pursuant to chapter 270;

(f) attorneys regulated pursuant to chapter 481;

(g) auctioneers regulated pursuant to chapter 330;

(h) barbers regulated pursuant to chapter 154;

(i) beauticians regulated pursuant to chapter 155A;

(j) boiler operators regulated pursuant to chapter 183;

(k) chiropractors regulated pursuant to chapter 148;

(l) collection agencies regulated pursuant to chapter 332;

(m) cosmetologists regulated pursuant to chapter 155A;

(n) dentists, registered dental assistants, and dental hygienists regulated pursuant to chapter 150A;

(o) detectives regulated pursuant to chapter 326;

(p) electricians regulated pursuant to chapter 326;

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- (q) embalmers regulated pursuant to chapter 149;
- (r) engineers regulated pursuant to chapter 326;
- (s) insurance brokers and salespersons regulated pursuant to chapter 60A;
- (t) midwives regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (u) morticians regulated pursuant to chapter 149;
- (v) nursing home administrators regulated pursuant to chapter 144A;
- (w) optometrists regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (x) osteopathic physicians regulated pursuant to chapter 147;
- (y) pharmacists regulated pursuant to chapter 151;
- (z) physical therapists regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (aa) physicians and surgeons regulated pursuant to chapter 147;
- (bb) plumbers regulated pursuant to chapter 326;
- (cc) podiatrists regulated pursuant to chapter 153;
- (dd) practical nurses regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (ee) professional fundraisers regulated pursuant to chapter 309;
- (ff) psychologists regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (gg) real estate brokers, salespersons, and others regulated pursuant to chapters 82 and 83;
- (hh) registered nurses regulated pursuant to chapter 148;
- (ii) securities brokers, dealers, agents, and investment advisers regulated pursuant to chapter 80A;
- (jj) steamfitters regulated pursuant to chapter 326;
- (kk) teachers and supervisory and support personnel regulated pursuant to chapter 125;
- (ll) veterinarians regulated pursuant to chapter 156;
- (mm) watchmakers regulated pursuant to chapter 326;
- (nn) water conditioning contractors and installers regulated pursuant to chapter 326;
- (oo) water well contractors regulated pursuant to chapter 156A;
- (pp) water and waste treatment operators regulated pursuant to chapter 115;
- (qq) motor carriers regulated pursuant to chapter 221;
- (rr) professional corporations regulated pursuant to chapter 319A;
- (4) any driver's license required pursuant to chapter 171;
- (5) any aircraft license required pursuant to chapter 360;
- (6) any watercraft license required pursuant to chapter 86B;
- (7) any license, permit, registration, certification, or other approval pertaining to a regulatory or management program related to the protection, conservation, or use of or interference with the resources of land, air, or water, which is required to be obtained from a state agency or instrumentality; and
- (8) any pollution control rule or standard established by the pollution control agency or any health rule or standard established by the commissioner of health or any licensing rule or standard established by the commissioner of human services.

History: 1981 c 342 art 2 s 3; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1Sp1981 c 4 art 4 s 14; 1982 c 413 s 1; 1983 c 70 s 1; 1983 c 216 art 1 s 23; 1984 c 654 art 5 s 7,58; 1Sp1986 c 3 art 1 s 12; 1990 c 391 art 8 s 28

116J.71 NEW LICENSES.

Any new business license authorized by the legislature or established by rule after June 2, 1981 shall conform to the policy in section 116J.69.

History: 1981 c 342 art 2 s 5; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.72 EXISTING LICENSES.

Nothing in sections 116J.69 to 116J.71 shall affect the validity of duration of an existing issued license.

History: 1981 c 342 art 2 s 6; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 23

116J.73 BUREAU OF BUSINESS LICENSES; DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.

It is the intent of the legislature that a program of business license assistance be established to provide a centralized state government office to which business license applicants may obtain comprehensive license information and assistance. The program of business assistance will be directed to commercial business undertakings, projects, and activities rather than to the issuance of licenses for individual privileges, including the occupational licenses for practicing a trade or profession, licenses for operating a motor vehicle, and amateur sporting licenses, including, but not limited to, hunting and fishing.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 1; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.74 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of sections 116J.73 to 116J.86, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Agency.** "Agency" has the meaning given it in section 14.02, subdivision 2.

Subd. 3. **Applicant.** "Applicant" means a person acting personally or authorized to act on behalf of any other person for the purpose of securing a license.

Subd. 4. **Bureau.** "Bureau" means the bureau of business licenses.

Subd. 5. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of the department of trade and economic development.

Subd. 6. **Director.** "Director" means the director of the bureau of business licenses.

Subd. 7. **Business license.** "Business license" or "license" has the meaning given it in section 116J.70, subdivision 2.

Subd. 7a. **Exception.** "Business license" or "license" does not include any license excepted in section 116J.70, subdivision 2a.

Subd. 8. **Person.** "Person" means any individual, proprietorship, partnership, association, cooperative, corporation, nonprofit organization, state or local government agency, and any other organization required to obtain one or more licenses.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 2; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 1; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2

116J.75 BUREAU OF BUSINESS LICENSES.

Subdivision 1. **Appointment of director.** The head of the bureau shall be the director of business licenses. The director shall be appointed by the commissioner in accordance with section 216C.23, and shall be in the classified service.

Subd. 2. **Director's powers and duties.** The director shall direct the work of the bureau. The director may, with the advice and consent of the commissioner, hire necessary employees, prescribe their duties, fix their compensation, and provide for the reimbursement of their expenses.

Subd. 3. **Director's report.** The director shall report to the commissioner or a designee on the activities of the bureau to ensure the consistency of those activities with the overall economic development policies of the state.

Subd. 4. **Coordination with other agencies.** The commissioner, working with other agency heads, shall assure that the activities of the bureau are fully coordinated with related activities of other agencies.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 3; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 10 subd 1

116J.76 GENERAL FUNCTIONS; POWERS AND DUTIES.

The bureau, by and through the director or the director's duly authorized employees, shall have the following functions, powers, and duties:

(a) providing comprehensive information on licenses required for business undertakings, projects, and activities in the state and making the information available to applicants and other persons;

(b) providing interested persons with an opinion as to the number, kind, and source of required licenses and potential difficulties in obtaining the licenses, based on a review of a potential applicant's business concept at an early stage in its planning;

(c) developing with the assistance of other departments a master application procedure to expedite the identification and processing of these licenses;

(d) facilitating or recommending consolidation of hearings required pursuant to licensing applications when feasible and advantageous;

(e) encouraging and facilitating the participation of federal and local government agencies in licensing coordination;

(f) making recommendations for eliminating, consolidating, simplifying, expediting, or otherwise improving licensing procedures affecting business undertakings;

(g) serving as an advocate for small business license applicants with state, federal, and local agencies in the process of applying for licenses and complying with licensing standards and requirements; and

(h) adopting rules, procedures, instructions, and forms as are required to carry out the functions, powers, and duties imposed upon the bureau by sections 116J.73 to 116J.86.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 4; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1Sp1985 c 13 s 247; 1986 c 444

116J.77 ASSISTANCE OF OTHER AGENCIES.

To effect the purposes of sections 116J.73 to 116J.86, and when requested by the commissioner, an agency shall to the extent practicable provide assistance, services, facilities, and data as will enable the bureau to carry out its functions, powers, and duties.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 5; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.78 COMPREHENSIVE LICENSE INFORMATION.

Subdivision 1. Reports by agencies. Not later than 90 days from June 2, 1981, each agency issuing licenses for business undertakings, projects, and activities shall report to the bureau, in a form prescribed by the bureau, on each and every type of license administered or issued by the agency. Application forms, applicable agency rules, fee schedules, and the estimated time period necessary for license application consideration based on experience and statutory or regulatory requirements shall accompany each report. The reports shall be updated every two years.

Subd. 2. Report supplementation. Each agency issuing licenses for business undertakings, projects, and activities shall, subsequent to its report pursuant to subdivision 1, provide the bureau with a report of any new license or modification of any existing license, or licensing procedures, together with applicable forms, rules, and information required under subdivisions 1 and 2 regarding new or modified licenses.

Subd. 3. Preparation of information file. The bureau shall prepare an information file on agency license requirements upon receipt of the agency reports and shall develop methods for its maintenance, revision, updating, and ready access.

Subd. 4. License information provided by bureau. The bureau shall provide comprehensive license information on the basis of information submitted in subdivisions 1 to 3. The bureau may prepare and distribute publications, guides, and other materials based upon the agency reports and the information file. These materials are designed to serve the convenience of license applicants and explain license requirements affecting business, including requirements having multiple license or multiple agency aspects.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 6; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.79 PREAPPLICATION CONFERENCES.

Subdivision 1. **Requests for conference.** The bureau, at the request of any person, proceeding in accordance with this section, may conduct a preapplication conference, pending the formal submission of application forms, in which affected agencies shall participate to the extent practicable in order to clarify the nature and scope of their interest, to provide guidance regarding license application and review procedures, and to coordinate agency actions and data collection or submission regarding license application.

Subd. 2. **Multiple licenses; agencies to provide review and opinion.** If, in the course of a preapplication conference, it becomes clear in the opinion of the director that a proposed business undertaking: (a) may require multiple licenses from the same or different state departments; (b) will take place in phases over an extended period of time; (c) will involve substantial expense for preparation of detailed plans, specifications and license applications; or (d) is of a new or unique nature, then each affected agency shall, at the request of the director to the extent practicable, provide the applicant with a written review and opinion as to all licenses which the agency would require for the proposed undertaking, the standards and conditions which would have to be met in order to obtain the licenses; timetables involved, and any properly related circumstances or findings.

Subd. 3. **Written opinions; time limits; extensions.** Each agency participating in the review and opinion process shall render the written opinion within a period not exceeding 60 days from the date fixed by the director. This period may be extended by the director at the request of an interested agency for the further consideration of information provided in accordance with this section. The director shall advise the person having requested the review and opinion of the extension, the reasons for it, and the revised period fixed by the director for rendering the written opinion. The person shall be entitled to confer with the bureau and with any agency having been granted an extension of time to ascertain what further information, if any, is required to facilitate the rendering of the review and opinion.

Subd. 4. **Effect of review and opinion procedure.** A preapplication review and opinion shall not relieve the person from the responsibility of obtaining any required licenses and shall be contingent upon the submission of all detailed plans, specifications, and information required for license applications. An agency's written opinion as to required licenses shall remain in effect indefinitely for the proposed business undertaking, project, or activity as described in the applicant's submission. However, if new license requirements or related standards over which an agency has no control or discretion in establishing subsequently become effective, the new license requirements or standards shall not be considered to have been part of the preapplication review and opinion. The opinion of the agency may be modified or amended by the agency at any time and shall not prohibit the agency from requiring additional licenses as deemed necessary for the applicant.

Subd. 5. **Rules of procedure.** The bureau shall promulgate rules for the procedures to be followed in the conduct of preapplication reviews and opinions.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 7; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.80 MASTER APPLICATION PROCEDURE.

Subdivision 1. **Development and implementation.** The bureau shall develop and implement a master application procedure to expedite the identification and processing of licenses for business undertakings, projects, and activities. A master application shall be made on a form prescribed by the bureau. This form shall request concise and specific information necessary to determine those licenses which are or may be required for the undertaking, project, or activity in order to insure speedy issuance of the licenses when all necessary requirements are met.

Subd. 2. **Bureau assistance in preparing.** Use of the master application procedure shall be at the option of any person proposing a business undertaking, project, or activ-

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ity. Upon request, the bureau shall assist any person in preparing a master application, describe the procedures involved, and provide other information from the comprehensive license information file as may be helpful or necessary.

Subd. 3. Receipt of application; notification to agencies. Upon receipt of a master application the bureau shall immediately notify in writing each agency having a possible interest in the proposed business undertaking, project, or activity with respect to licenses which are or may be required.

Subd. 4. Agency response. Each agency so notified shall respond to the bureau within 20 days of receipt of the notice and shall advise the bureau whether one or more licenses under its jurisdiction are or may be required for the business undertaking, project, or activity described in the master application. The response shall specify the licenses which in the opinion of the agency are or may be required, if any, and shall indicate the fees to be charged.

Subd. 5. Consequences of negative or nonresponses. Any agency so notified which responds that it does not have an interest in the license requirements of the business undertaking, project, or activity described in the master application, or which does not respond within the time period specified in subdivision 4, shall not require a license for the undertaking, project, or activity described in the master application. Except that where unusual circumstances have prevented an agency from notifying the bureau, and the agency establishes that failure to require a license would result in substantial harm to the public health or welfare, the commissioner may order that the license be required.

Subd. 6. Failure to provide accurate or pertinent information. The provisions of subdivision 5 shall not apply if the commissioner of trade and economic development determines that the master application contained false, misleading, or deceptive information, or failed to include pertinent information, the lack of which could reasonably lead an agency to misjudge the applicability of licenses under its jurisdiction, or if new license requirements or related standards subsequently became effective for which an agency had no discretion in establishing the effective date.

Subd. 7. Notification to applicant. The bureau, following the 20 day notice and response period, shall promptly provide the person having submitted a master application with application forms and related information for all licenses specified by the interested agencies and shall advise the person:

(a) That all forms are to be completed and submitted to the interested agencies; and

(b) At the option of the applicant, that the bureau will receive all forms as a package with the fees to be charged, if any, and that the bureau will immediately separate and submit the forms and any allocable fees to the appropriate agencies.

Subd. 8. Withdrawal of application. An applicant may withdraw a master application at any time without forfeiture of any license approval applied for or obtained under the master application procedures contained in this section.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 8; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1983 c 289 s 115 subd 1; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2

116J.81 LICENSE COORDINATION AND ASSISTANCE TO APPLICANTS.

Subdivision 1. Authorization. Any applicant for licenses required for a business undertaking, project, or activity may confer with the bureau to obtain assistance in the prompt and efficient processing and review of applications.

Subd. 2. Duties of the bureau. The bureau shall, so far as possible, render assistance; and the director may designate an officer or employee of the bureau to act as an expeditor for the purpose of:

(a) Facilitating contacts for the applicant with agencies responsible for processing and reviewing license applications;

(b) Arranging conferences to clarify the interest and requirements of any agency with respect to license applications;

(c) Considering with agencies the feasibility of consolidating hearings and data required of the applicant; and

(d) Assisting the applicant in the resolution of outstanding issues identified by agencies, including delays experienced in license review.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 9; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.82 CONSOLIDATED HEARINGS.

Subdivision 1. **Bureau may request.** The bureau may request the office of administrative hearings to consolidate hearings insofar as it is feasible and agreeable to all parties.

Subd. 2. **Rules of procedure.** A consolidated hearing shall be conducted in a manner consistent with sections 14.001 to 14.69, and the applicable rules of the office of administrative hearings.

Subd. 3. **Prehearing conference.** The office of administrative hearings, with the consent of the agencies having license jurisdiction, may provide for a prehearing conference to assist in the disposition of the type, time, place, and parties of the consolidated hearing, the simplification of the issues, the stipulations as to agreed facts and necessary documents, and other relevant matters.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 10; 1981 c 356 s 248; 1982 c 424 s 130; 1987 c 384 art 2 s 1; 1990 c 422 s 10

116J.83 LICENSE AUTHORITY RETAINED.

Each agency having jurisdiction to approve or deny a license shall have the continuing power vested in it to make such determinations. The provisions of sections 116J.73 to 116J.86 shall not lessen or reduce these powers and shall modify the procedures followed in carrying out these powers only to the extent provided in sections 116J.73 to 116J.86.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 11; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.84 SERVICES PROVIDED AT NO CHARGE.

Services rendered by the bureau shall be made available without charge. Nothing contained in this section shall relieve an applicant of any part of the fees or charges established for the review and approval of license applications or relieve an applicant of any of the apportioned costs of a consolidated hearing conducted under sections 116J.79 and 116J.80.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 12; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.85 FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION.

Subdivision 1. **Encouragement.** Federal and local government license agencies shall be encouraged to participate in the business license information, coordination, and assistance services of the bureau and to make information available to applicants through the bureau with respect to any business undertaking, project, or activity which is referred to the bureau under the provisions of sections 116J.73 to 116J.86.

Subd. 2. **Assistance to federal and local agency license applicants.** The bureau shall, so far as is practicable, advise applicants of federal and local agency license requirements and shall maintain an information file on licenses for which the state has delegated issuance authority to local government agencies.

Subd. 3. **Coordination of license review procedures.** The director shall consult with local government officials with respect to cooperation in coordinating state and local license application and review procedures and shall recommend to the governor and the legislature any actions which would facilitate this coordination.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 13; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.86 COMPILATION AND MAINTENANCE OF STATISTICAL DATA.

The bureau shall obtain and keep on an annual basis appropriate statistical data regarding the number of licenses issued by agencies, the amount of time necessary for the licenses to be issued, the cost of obtaining the licenses, the types of projects for which specific licenses are issued, a geographic distribution of licenses issued, and other pertinent data which the director deems appropriate. The bureau shall analyze the data by type of license and by agency responsible and shall make its findings available to the public.

History: 1981 c 342 art 3 s 14; 1981 c 356 s 248

116J.87 [Repealed, 1987 c 404 s 191]**116J.871 FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE LIMITATIONS; PREVAILING WAGE.**

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

(b) "Economic development" means financial assistance provided to a person directly or to a local unit of government or nonprofit organization on behalf of a person who is engaged in the manufacture or sale of goods and services. Economic development does not include (i) financial assistance for rehabilitation of existing housing or (ii) financial assistance for new housing construction in which total financial assistance at a single project site is less than \$100,000.

(c) "Financial assistance" means (i) a grant awarded by a state agency for economic development related purposes if a single business receives \$200,000 or more of the grant proceeds; (ii) a loan or the guaranty or purchase of a loan made by a state agency for economic development related purposes if a single business receives \$500,000 or more of the loan proceeds; or (iii) a reduction, credit, or abatement of a tax assessed under chapter 297A where the tax reduction, credit, or abatement applies to a geographic area smaller than the entire state and was granted for economic development related purposes. Financial assistance does not include payments by the state of aids and credits under chapter 273 or 477A to a political subdivision.

(d) "Project site" means the location where improvements are made that are financed in whole or in part by the financial assistance; or the location of employees that receive financial assistance in the form of employment and training services as defined in section 268.0111, subdivision 4, or customized training from a technical college.

(e) "State agency" means any agency defined under section 16B.01, subdivision 2, the Greater Minnesota Corporation, and the iron range resources and rehabilitation board.

Subd. 2. **Prevailing wage required.** A state agency may provide financial assistance to a person only if the person receiving or benefiting from the financial assistance certifies to the commissioner of labor and industry that laborers and mechanics at the project site during construction, installation, remodeling, and repairs for which the financial assistance was provided will be paid the prevailing wage rate as defined in section 177.42, subdivision 6.

Subd. 3. **Prevailing wage; penalty.** It is a misdemeanor for a person who has certified that prevailing wages will be paid to laborers and mechanics under subdivision 2 to subsequently fail to pay the prevailing wage. This misdemeanor is punishable by a fine of not more than \$700, or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both. Each day a violation of this subdivision continues is a separate offense.

Subd. 4. **Notification.** A state agency shall notify any person applying for financial assistance from the state agency of the requirements under subdivision 2 and of the penalties under subdivision 3.

Subd. 5. **Exception.** Nothing in this section denies any financial assistance granted to or qualified for by a person whose construction, installation, remodeling, or repairs commenced prior to August 1, 1990.

History: 1990 c 604 art 10 s 7

116J.873 ECONOMIC RECOVERY GRANTS.

Subdivision 1. **Administration.** Economic recovery grants shall be made available to local communities and recognized Indian tribal governments in accordance with the rules adopted for economic development grants in the small cities community development block grant programs, except that all units of general purpose local government are eligible applicants for economic recovery grants. The commissioner of trade and economic development shall administer the economic recovery grant program as a part of the small cities development program.

Subd. 2. **Economic recovery grant defined.** "Economic recovery grant" means an agreement between the state and an eligible recipient through which the state provides money to carry out specified programs, services, or activities designed to create new employment, maintain existing employment, increase the local tax base, or otherwise increase economic activity in a community.

Subd. 3. **Grant evaluation.** The division of community development in the department shall accept, review, and evaluate applications for grants to local units of government made in accordance with rules adopted for economic development grants in the small cities development program. Applications recommended for funding, including recommended grant awards, shall be submitted by the division to the commissioner for approval.

Subd. 4. **Grant limits.** An economic recovery grant may not be approved for an amount over \$500,000. The division may recommend less funding than requested if, in the opinion of the division, the amount requested is more than is necessary to meet the applicant's needs. If the amount of the grant is reduced, the reasons for the reduction shall be given to the applicant. The portion of an economic recovery grant that exceeds \$100,000 must be repaid to the state when it is repaid to the local community or recognized Indian tribal government by the person or entity to which it was loaned by the local community or Indian tribal government. Money repaid to the state must be credited to the general fund.

History: 1984 c 654 art 2 s 107; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 48

116J.875 [Renumbered 116M.02]

CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAM**116J.876 DEFINITIONS.**

Subdivision 1. **Terms.** For the purposes of this section and sections 116J.8761 to 116J.8769, the terms defined in this section have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Agreement.** "Agreement" means an agreement between a lender and the commissioner under which a lender may participate in the program.

Subd. 3. **Borrower.** "Borrower" means the recipient of a loan which is, has been, or will be filed by the lender for enrollment under the program and meets the following requirements:

(1) the borrower is a corporation, partnership, joint venture, sole proprietorship, cooperative, or other entity, whether profit or nonprofit, which is authorized to conduct business in the state; and

(2) the borrower is not an executive officer, director, or principal shareholder of the lender, or a member of the immediate family of an executive officer, director, or principal shareholder of the lender, or an entity controlled by an executive officer, director, principal shareholder, or member of the immediate family.

Subd. 4. **Capital access account; account.** "Capital access account" or "account" means an account created in the special revenue fund for the purposes of the capital access program.

Subd. 5. **Claim.** "Claim" means any claim filed by the lender under section 116J.8767.

Subd. 6. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of trade and economic development.

Subd. 7. **Early loan.** "Early loan" means an enrolled loan where at the time of enrollment the amount of previously enrolled loans made by the lender under the program was less than \$5,000,000.

Subd. 8. **Eligible loan.** "Eligible loan" means a loan made by the lender to a borrower that meets the requirements of section 116J.8764.

Subd. 9. **Enrolled loan.** "Enrolled loan" means a loan enrolled by the commissioner under the terms of section 116J.8764.

Subd. 10. **Lender.** "Lender" means a financial institution as defined in section 13A.01, subdivision 2, that has entered into an agreement with the commissioner to participate in the program.

Subd. 11. **Passive real estate ownership.** "Passive real estate ownership" means ownership of real estate for the purpose of deriving income from speculation, trade, or rentals, except that the term does not include (1) the ownership of that portion of real estate being used or intended to be used for the operation of the business of the owner of the real estate; or (2) ownership of real estate for the purpose of construction or renovation until the completion of the construction or renovation phase.

Subd. 12. **Program.** "Program" means the capital access program created by sections 116J.876 to 116J.8769.

Subd. 13. **Reserve fund.** "Reserve fund" means an administrative account maintained by the commissioner for funds accumulated under an agreement with the commissioner to cover losses sustained by the lender on enrolled loans.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 146

116J.8761 CAPITAL ACCESS PROGRAM; CREATION; ADMINISTRATION.

A capital access program is created in the department of trade and economic development. The purpose of the capital access program is to provide capital to businesses, particularly small and medium-sized businesses, to foster economic development. Loans made under this program are to be slightly riskier than conventional loans, but still offer a high degree of soundness in connection with the capital access program.

The commissioner has the power to administer the program, enter into contracts, and take action reasonably necessary to ensure compliance with the program. The lender shall provide the commissioner with information regarding its participation in the program as the commissioner may reasonably require. Upon notice to the lender, the commissioner may inspect the files of the lender relating to any loans enrolled under the program during normal business hours of the lender.

A lender is eligible to participate in the program upon entering into an agreement with the commissioner governing the duties of the commissioner and the lender under the program.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 147

116J.8762 COMMISSIONER; DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Duties.** The commissioner must:

(1) market the capital access program to businesses and other persons in the state in cooperation with financial institutions and statewide associations representing financial institutions;

(2) establish a reservation or allocation system so that lenders may reserve an allocation of funds in the account before or after the lender enters into a loan agreement or contract with a borrower; and

(3) develop the program, in cooperation with financial institutions and statewide associations representing financial institutions, so that the degree of flexibility for the commissioner and the participating lenders is maximized and the state oversight of individual loans is minimized, and the fiscal integrity of the program is maintained.

Subd. 2. **Interests of commissioner.** Except upon the exercise of the commissioner's right of subrogation under section 116J.8767, the commissioner has no legal or equitable interest in any collateral, security, or other right of recovery in connection with any loan enrolled in the program, and the commissioner's consent is not necessary for any amendment to the lender's loan documents.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 148

116J.8763 ELIGIBLE LOANS.

Subdivision 1. **Loan types.** Eligible loans may include:

- (1) loans made for industrial, commercial, or agricultural purposes;
- (2) refinancing of loans made for the purposes in clause (1); and
- (3) lines of credit agreements established between the lender and borrower which are used for the purposes in clause (1).

Subd. 2. **Loan restrictions.** Eligible loans must meet the following criteria:

- (1) the lender has not made the loan in order to enroll in the program prior debt which is not covered under the program and which is or was owed by the borrower to the lender;
- (2) the proceeds of the loan will not be used for that portion of a project or development devoted to housing;
- (3) the proceeds of the loan will not be used to finance passive real estate ownership; and
- (4) the proceeds of the loan will be used to finance a project or enterprise located within this state which will foster economic development in Minnesota.

Subd. 3. **Loan provisions.** An eligible loan may provide for an interest rate, fees, and other terms and conditions as the lender and borrower may agree. If the loan amount to be borrowed is determined by a commitment agreement that establishes a line of credit, the amount of the loan is the maximum amount available to the borrower under the agreement.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 149

116J.8764 ENROLLMENT OF LOANS IN PROGRAM.

Subdivision 1. **Filing requirements.** (a) To enroll a loan under this program, the lender must file a completed loan enrollment form with the commissioner. The lender must also certify the following to the commissioner as part of the filing:

- (1) the lender has no substantial reason to believe that the loan is being made to a borrower who does not meet the requirements of section 116J.876, subdivision 3;
- (2) that the lender has received from the borrower a written representation, warranty, pledge, and waiver stating that the borrower has no legal, beneficial, or equitable interest in the nonrefundable premium charges or any other funds credited to the reserve fund established to cover losses sustained by the lender on enrolled loans;
- (3) the loan being filed for enrollment is an eligible loan under section 116J.8763; and
- (4) premium charges required of the borrower and lender under this section have been deposited in the reserve fund.

(b) The lender shall file the loan enrollment form within ten business days after the lender makes the loan. The date on which the lender makes a loan is the date on which the lender first disburses proceeds of the loan to the borrower or an earlier date on which the loan documents have been executed and the lender has obligated itself to disburse proceeds of the loan. The filing date of a loan enrollment form is the date on which the lender delivers the required documentation to the commissioner, delivers it to a professional courier service for delivery to the commissioner, or mails it to the commissioner by certified mail.

Subd. 2. **Commissioner enrollment; acknowledgment.** When the commissioner

receives the loan enrollment form, the commissioner shall enroll the loan, unless the information provided under subdivision 1 indicates that the loan is not an eligible loan, and shall deliver to the lender within five business days of receipt an acknowledgment of enrollment, signed by the commissioner or designee, including documentation of the amount being transferred by the commissioner into the reserve fund under this section.

Subd. 3. Amount covered. When filing a loan enrollment form, the lender may specify an amount to be covered under the program. The amount may be less than the total amount of the loan. Unless the context clearly requires otherwise, when used in connection with a loan or loans, the words "amount" and "proceeds" refer only to the amount covered under the agreement.

Subd. 4. Amount covered in refinancings. (a) In the case of a loan to refinance a loan previously made to the borrower by the lender that was not enrolled under the program, the lender may obtain coverage under the program for an amount not exceeding the amount of additional financing.

(b) If an enrolled loan is refinanced and the total amount to be covered under the program does not exceed the covered amount of the loan as previously enrolled, the refinanced loan may continue as an enrolled loan without payment of additional premium charges or transfers by the commissioner to the reserve fund.

(c) If an enrolled loan is refinanced in an amount exceeding the amount of the loan as previously enrolled, the lender may obtain coverage of the amount of the refinanced loan that exceeds the amount covered when the loan was previously enrolled by refiling the loan for enrollment under subdivision 1.

(d) Fluctuations in the outstanding balance of a line of credit, without increasing the enrolled amount under the program, are not a refinancing of the loan.

Subd. 5. Termination of enrollment. If the outstanding balance of an enrolled loan which is not a line of credit is reduced to zero, the loan is no longer an enrolled loan. If an enrolled loan which is a line of credit has an outstanding balance of zero for a 12-month period, the line of credit is no longer an enrolled loan, unless, before the expiration of the 12-month period, the lender reaffirms in writing to the borrower that the line of credit will remain open and the borrower acknowledges the reaffirmation in writing.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 150

116J.8765 RESERVE FUND; PREMIUMS.

Subdivision 1. Creation. Upon execution of an agreement between the lender and the commissioner, the commissioner shall establish a reserve fund account with the lender in the name of the commissioner for the purpose of receiving all required premium charges to be paid by the lender and the borrower and transfers made by the commissioner under sections 116J.876 to 116J.8769.

Subd. 2. Premium payments and transfers to reserve fund. The premium charges payable to the reserve fund by the lender and the borrower in connection with a loan filed for enrollment are determined by the lender. The premium paid by the borrower may not be less than 1.5 percent nor greater than 3.5 percent of the amount of the loan. The premium paid by the lender shall be equal to the amount of the premium paid by the borrower. The lender may recover from the borrower the cost of the lender's premium payment, in any manner in which the lender and borrower agree. When enrolling a loan, the commissioner shall transfer into the reserve fund from the account premium amounts determined as follows:

(a) If the amount of any loan, plus the amount of loans previously enrolled by the lender, is less than \$2,000,000, the premium amount transferred must be equal to 150 percent of the combined premiums paid into the reserve fund by the borrower and the lender for each enrolled loan.

(b) If, prior to the enrollment of the loan, the amount of loans previously enrolled by the lender equals or exceeds \$2,000,000, the premium amount transferred must be equal to the combined premiums paid into the reserve fund by the borrower and the lender for each enrolled loan.

(c) If the amount of loans previously enrolled by the lender is less than \$2,000,000, but the enrollment of a loan will cause the aggregate amount of all enrolled loans made by the lender to exceed \$2,000,000, the premium amount transferred must be equal to a percentage of the combined amount paid by the lender and the borrower. The percentage must be determined by (1) multiplying by 150 that portion of the loan which when added to the amount of all previously enrolled loans totals \$2,000,000, (2) multiplying the balance of the loan by 100, and (3) adding the products of the two amounts and dividing the sum by the total amount of the loan.

Subd. 3. Limitation of transfers. A maximum premium amount of \$150,000 may be transferred into the reserve funds of all lenders participating in the program by the commissioner over any three-year period in connection with any one borrower or any group of borrowers among which a common enterprise exists. This maximum premium amount may be exceeded upon the written request by a lender only if the commissioner approves in writing the transfer of an amount in excess of \$150,000. For the purpose of this subdivision, the term "common enterprise" has the meaning given it in Code of Federal Regulations, title 12, section 32, as amended.

Subd. 4. Control and investment of reserve fund. (a) All money credited to the reserve fund is under the exclusive control of the commissioner. The commissioner may not withdraw money from the reserve fund except as specifically provided in this subdivision and sections 116J.8766 and 116J.8768.

(b) Money in the reserve fund must be deposited by the commissioner in an account with the lender unless the commissioner determines that the lender is not in substantial compliance with the requirements of the agreement. If money in the reserve fund is not deposited by the commissioner in an account with the lender, it must be invested or reinvested by the commissioner in (1) direct obligations of the United States or the state of Minnesota or in obligations the principal and interest of which are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States or the state of Minnesota, or (2) a deposit account at a depository institution whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or the Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation.

(c) Interest or income earned on the money credited to the reserve fund is part of the reserve fund. The commissioner may withdraw at any time from the reserve fund 50 percent of all interest or income that has been credited to the reserve fund, except that after the first withdrawal the commissioner may not withdraw more than 50 percent of all interest or income that has been credited to the reserve fund since the time of the last withdrawal. Any withdrawal made under this subdivision may be made prior to paying any claim. None of the amounts withdrawn need to be transferred back to the reserve fund. Any withdrawal under this subdivision must be credited in the capital access account.

Subd. 5. Pledge of the reserve fund. The commissioner shall pledge to the lender that the money in the reserve fund will be available to pay claims under section 116J.8766, that the lender will have a first security interest in the money in the reserve fund to pay the claims, and that the commissioner will not encumber or pledge the money to any other party.

Subd. 6. Quarterly reports; inspections. (a) If the reserve fund is not maintained with the lender, the commissioner shall provide to the lender quarterly transaction reports indicating the balance in the reserve fund, payments and transfers into the reserve fund, withdrawals from the reserve fund, and interest or income earned on money credited to the reserve fund.

(b) The records of the commissioner with respect to all payments and transfers into the reserve fund, withdrawals from the reserve fund, and interest or income earned on the money credited to the reserve fund, are available to the lender at the offices of the commissioner during normal business hours.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 151

116J.8766 CLAIMS BY LENDER TO RESERVE FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Claim process.** (a) If the lender charges off all or part of an enrolled loan, the lender may file a claim with the commissioner. The claim must be filed contemporaneously with the charge-off.

(b) The lender's claim may include, in addition to the amount of principal charged off plus accrued interest, one-half of the documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred in pursuing its collection efforts, including preservation of collateral. The amount of principal and accrued interest included in the claim may not exceed the principal amount covered under the program upon enrollment, plus accrued interest attributable to the covered principal amount.

(c) The lender shall determine when and how much to charge off on an enrolled loan in a manner consistent with its normal method for making these determinations on similar loans which are not enrolled loans.

(d) If the lender files two or more claims contemporaneously and there are insufficient funds in its reserve fund at that time to cover the entire amount of the claims, the lender may designate the order of priority in which the commissioner shall pay the claims.

Subd. 2. **Disbursement of reserve fund.** (a) Upon receipt by the commissioner of a claim filed by the lender, the commissioner shall, within ten business days, pay or authorize the lender to withdraw from the reserve fund the amount of the claim as submitted, unless the information provided by the lender was known by the lender to be false at the time the loan was filed for enrollment. No other violation of sections 116J.876 to 116J.8769 or the agreement is grounds for denial of a claim.

(b) If there is insufficient money in the reserve fund to cover the entire amount of the lender's claim, the commissioner shall pay to the lender or authorize the lender to withdraw an amount equal to the current balance in the reserve fund and the following shall apply:

(1) If the enrolled loan for which the claim has been filed is not an early loan, the payment fully satisfies the claim, and the lender has no right to receive any further amount from the reserve fund with respect to that claim.

(2) If the loan is an early loan, the partial payment does not satisfy the lender's claim, and at any time that the remaining balance of the claim is not greater than 75 percent of the balance in the reserve fund at the time of the loss, the commissioner, upon request of the lender, shall pay the remaining balance of the claim.

Subd. 3. **Recovery by lender subsequent to claim.** If, subsequent to payment of a claim by the commissioner, the lender recovers from a borrower any amount for which payment of the claim was made, the lender shall promptly pay to the commissioner for deposit in the reserve fund the amount recovered, less one-half of any documented out-of-pocket expenses incurred. The lender need pay to the commissioner for deposit in the reserve fund only amounts in excess of the amount of recovery needed to fully cover the lender's loss on an enrolled loan.

For the purposes of this subdivision and section 116J.8767, the lender's loss on an enrolled loan includes any losses on the loan including principal, accrued interest, and one-half of the documented out-of-pocket expenses attributable to principal amounts in excess of the amount covered under the program or the principal amount included in the claim.

Subd. 4. **Technical assistance.** When a borrower becomes 60 days delinquent in the payments of an enrolled loan or before a lender files a claim with the commissioner, the lender must notify the commissioner of the delinquency. The commissioner, after notification, shall inform the borrower of the technical assistance providers in the borrower's area that may assist in solving any business or management problems experienced by the borrower.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 152; 1990 c 423 s 4

116J.8767 SUBROGATION OF CLAIMS.

Subdivision 1. **Limitation.** The commissioner may exercise the right of subrogation under this section if the commissioner determines, in the commissioner's discretion, that the lender has not exercised reasonable care and diligence in its collection activities with respect to the loan or that there is a reasonable basis for believing that the lender will not exercise reasonable care and diligence in the future with respect to the collection activities.

Subd. 2. **Assignment of rights.** If the payment of a claim has fully covered the lender's loss on an enrolled loan, or if the payment of a claim when combined with any recovery from the borrower has fully covered the lender's loss, the commissioner, upon request, is subrogated to the rights of the lender with respect to any collateral, security, or other right of recovery in connection with the loan that has not been realized by the lender. The lender thereafter shall assign to the commissioner any right, title, or interest to any collateral, security, or other right of recovery in connection with the loan.

Subd. 3. **Lender obligations.** If an assignment has been made, the commissioner is not required to undertake any obligations of the lender under its loan documents, except for any obligations directly related to the commissioner's assigned rights of recovery in connection with the loan. The lender shall fulfill any other obligations it may have under the loan documents in the same manner and to the same degree as required had the assignment not been made. The lender shall provide the commissioner with all reasonable assistance the commissioner requests in proceeding with respect to any collateral, security, or other right of recovery, except that the lender need not incur any out-of-pocket expenses.

Subd. 4. **Payment of lender's loss.** If the commissioner decides to exercise the right of subrogation in connection with an enrolled loan and would be entitled to exercise the right except for the fact that the lender's loss has not been fully covered, the commissioner may pay from money in the reserve fund an amount sufficient to fully cover the lender's loss even though the payment may cover a principal amount not covered under the program or not included in the lender's claim. Upon making the payment, the commissioner is subrogated to the rights of the lender.

Subd. 5. **Recovered funds.** Any money received by the commissioner as a result of enforcement actions taken with respect to any collateral, security, or other rights of recovery must be promptly deposited by the commissioner in the reserve fund, less any out-of-pocket expenses incurred by the commissioner in taking such enforcement actions.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 153

116J.8768 EXCESS RESERVE FUNDS.

Subdivision 1. **Reports.** The lender shall file quarterly reports with the commissioner indicating the number and aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans as of the end of each quarter. A quarterly report is not required for any quarter that ends with a balance in the reserve fund of zero, except that a calendar year-end report must be filed. In computing the aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans, the balance of any loan may not be greater than the covered amount of the loan as enrolled.

Subd. 2. **Withdrawal of excess reserve funds.** (a) If reports filed under this section indicate that for the immediately preceding 24-month period the balance in the reserve fund continually exceeded the aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans, the commissioner may withdraw from the reserve fund, on or before the last day of the month for which a report is due, an amount not greater than the amount by which the reserve fund balance exceeded the aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans as of the most recent report, unless the lender has provided to the commissioner adequate documentation that at some time during that 24-month period the aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans exceeded the balance then in the reserve fund. Any amounts withdrawn from the reserve fund must be transferred to the account.

(b) If a report is not filed within 30 days of its original due date, the commissioner

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may withdraw from the reserve fund based on the commissioner's determination from an inspection of the lender's files an amount not greater than the amount by which the reserve fund balance exceeded the aggregate outstanding balance of all enrolled loans as of the date for which the report was required to be filed.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 154

116J.8769 TERMINATION.

The commissioner may terminate the obligation to a lender to enroll loans under the program if the commissioner determines that the lender is not in substantial compliance with the requirements of the program. The termination takes effect on the date specified in the notice of termination, except that the termination does not apply to any loan made on or before the date on which the notice of termination is received by the lender. If the commissioner is terminating the enrollment of loans for all participating lenders under the program, the commissioner shall provide notice of at least 90 days to the lender. Any terminations under this section are prospective only and do not apply to any loans previously refinanced. After termination, the amount covered under the program may not be increased beyond the covered amount as previously enrolled.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 155

116J.88 Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116M.03 subdivision 1]

- Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 2]
- Subd. 3. [Repealed, 1983 c 289 s 119]
- Subd. 3a. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 3]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 4]
- Subd. 4a. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 5]
- Subd. 4b. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 6]
- Subd. 4c. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 7]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 8]
- Subd. 6. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 9]
- Subd. 6a. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 10]
- Subd. 7. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 11]
- Subd. 7a. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 12]
- Subd. 7b. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 13]
- Subd. 8. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 14]
- Subd. 8a. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 15]
- Subd. 8b. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 16]
- Subd. 9. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 17]
- Subd. 10. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 18]
- Subd. 11. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 19]
- Subd. 12. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 20]
- Subd. 13. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 21]
- Subd. 14. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 22]
- Subd. 15. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 23]
- Subd. 16. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 24]
- Subd. 17. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 25]
- Subd. 18. [Renumbered 116M.03 subd 26]

116J.89 Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116M.06 subdivision 1]

- Subd. 1a. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 2]
- Subd. 1b. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 3]
- Subd. 1c. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 4]

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- Subd. 1d. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 5]
- Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 6]
- Subd. 3. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 7]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 8]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 9]
- Subd. 6. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 10]
- Subd. 7. [Repealed, 1983 c 213 s 25]
- Subd. 8. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 11]
- Subd. 9. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 12]
- Subd. 10. [Renumbered 116M.06 subd 13]
- 116J.90** Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116M.07 subdivision 1]
- Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 2]
- Subd. 2a. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 3]
- Subd. 3. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 4]
- Subd. 3a. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 5]
- Subd. 3b. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 6]
- Subd. 3c. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 7]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 8]
- Subd. 4a. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 9]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 10]
- Subd. 5a. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 11]
- Subd. 6. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 12]
- Subd. 7. [Renumbered 116M.07 subd 13]
- 116J.91** Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116M.08 subdivision 1]
- Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 2]
- Subd. 3. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 3]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 4]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 5]
- Subd. 6. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 6]
- Subd. 7. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 7]
- Subd. 8. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 8]
- Subd. 9. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 9]
- Subd. 10. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 10]
- Subd. 11. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 11]
- Subd. 12. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 12]
- Subd. 13. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 13]
- Subd. 14. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 14]
- Subd. 15. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 15]
- Subd. 16. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 16]
- Subd. 17. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 17]
- Subd. 18. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 18]
- Subd. 19. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 19]
- Subd. 19a. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 20]
- Subd. 20. [Renumbered 116M.08 subd 21]
- 116J.921** [Renumbered 116M.09]
- 116J.922** [Repealed, 1984 c 583 s 37]
- 116J.923** Subdivision 1. [Renumbered 116M.10 subdivision 1]
- Subd. 2. [Repealed, 1984 c 583 s 37]

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- Subd. 3. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 2]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 3]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 4]
- Subd. 6. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 5]
- Subd. 7. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 6]
- Subd. 8. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 7]
- Subd. 9. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 8]
- Subd. 10. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 9]
- Subd. 11. [Renumbered 116M.10 subd 10]
- Subd. 12. [Repealed, 1984 c 583 s 37]

116J.924 Subdivision 1. [Repealed, 1984 c 583 s 37]

- Subd. 2. [Renumbered 116M.11 subdivision 1]
- Subd. 3. [Renumbered 116M.11 subd 2]
- Subd. 4. [Renumbered 116M.11 subd 3]
- Subd. 5. [Renumbered 116M.11 subd 4]

116J.925 [Renumbered 116M.12]

116J.926 [Renumbered 116M.13]

116J.94 [Repealed, 1987 c 314 s 5]

116J.941 [Repealed, 1987 c 316 s 4; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 270]

116J.942 [Repealed, 1987 c 316 s 4; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 270]

116J.951 [Repealed, 1987 c 386 art 1 s 13]

116J.955 RURAL REHABILITATION REVOLVING ACCOUNT.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The rural rehabilitation account is in the special revenue fund. The money transferred to the state as a result of liquidating the rural rehabilitation corporation trust, and money derived from transfer of the trust to the state, must be credited to the rural rehabilitation account. The principal amount of the rural rehabilitation account must be invested by the state investment board. The income attributable to investment of the principal is appropriated to the commissioner for the purposes of Laws 1987, chapter 386, article 1.

Subd. 2. **Expenditure of account.** The commissioner may use the rural rehabilitation account for the purposes that are allowed under the Minnesota rural rehabilitation corporation's charter and agreement with the United States Secretary of Agriculture as provided in Public Law Number 499, 81st Congress, enacted May 3, 1950 and as allowed under Laws 1987, chapter 386, article 1. Not more than three percent of the book value of the Minnesota rural rehabilitation corporation's assets may be used for administrative purposes in a year without approval of the United States Secretary of Agriculture.

Subd. 3. **Transfer of authorized records to commissioner.** The authority, assets, books, and records held by the Minnesota rural rehabilitation corporation and later by the state executive council under Public Law Number 499, 81st Congress, May 3, 1950, is transferred to the commissioner.

History: 1985 c 254 s 2; 1987 c 386 art 1 s 1,2; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 49,50

116J.961 [Repealed, 1987 c 386 art 1 s 13]

116J.965 [Repealed, 1987 c 386 art 1 s 13]

TRADE PROMOTION

116J.966 COMMISSIONER'S TRADE PROMOTION DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** (a) The commissioner shall promote, develop, and facilitate trade and foreign investment in Minnesota. In furtherance of these goals, and in addition to the powers granted by section 116J.035, the commissioner may:

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- (1) locate, develop, and promote international markets for Minnesota products and services;
- (2) arrange and lead trade missions to countries with promising international markets for Minnesota goods, technology, services, and agricultural products;
- (3) promote Minnesota products and services at domestic and international trade shows;
- (4) organize, promote, and present domestic and international trade shows featuring Minnesota products and services;
- (5) host trade delegations and assist foreign traders in contacting appropriate Minnesota businesses and investments;
- (6) develop contacts with Minnesota businesses and gather and provide information to assist them in locating and communicating with international trading or joint venture counterparts;
- (7) provide information, education, and counseling services to Minnesota businesses regarding the economic, commercial, legal, and cultural contexts of international trade;
- (8) provide Minnesota businesses with international trade leads and information about the availability and sources of services relating to international trade, such as export financing, licensing, freight forwarding, international advertising, translation, and custom brokering;
- (9) locate, attract, and promote foreign investment and business development in Minnesota to enhance employment opportunities in Minnesota;
- (10) provide foreign businesses and investors desiring to locate facilities in Minnesota information regarding sources of governmental, legal, real estate, financial, and business services;
- (11) undertake activities to support the world trade center; and
- (12) enter into contracts or other agreements with private persons and public entities, including agreements to establish and maintain offices and other types of representation in foreign countries, to carry out the purposes of promoting international trade and attracting investment from foreign countries to Minnesota and to carry out this section, without regard to sections 16B.07 and 16B.09.

(b) The programs and activities of the commissioner of trade and economic development and the Minnesota trade division may not duplicate programs and activities of the commissioner of agriculture or the Minnesota world trade center corporation.

(c) The commissioner shall notify the chairs of the senate finance and house appropriations committees of each agreement under this subdivision to establish and maintain an office or other type of representation in a foreign country.

Subd. 2. Agricultural promotion. The commissioner of agriculture, the commissioner of trade and economic development, and the director of the Minnesota trade division shall cooperate with each other to promote the beneficial agricultural interests of the state. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade division have primary responsibility for promoting state agricultural interests to international markets. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade division are also responsible for the promotion of national trade programs related to international marketing. The commissioner of agriculture has primary responsibility for promoting the agriculture interests of producers, promoting state agricultural markets, and promoting agricultural interests of the state in cooperative production and marketing efforts with other states and the United States Department of Agriculture. The commissioner of agriculture is also responsible for promoting the national marketing of state agricultural products.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 20; 1988 c 686 art 1 s 65

116J.967 COMMISSIONER'S TRADE PROMOTION DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. Generally. (a) The commissioner shall promote, develop, and facili-

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tate trade and foreign investment in Minnesota. In furtherance of these goals, and in addition to the powers granted by section 116J.035, the commissioner may:

(1) locate, develop, and promote international markets for Minnesota products and services;

(2) arrange and lead trade missions to countries with promising international markets for Minnesota goods, technology, services, and agricultural products;

(3) promote Minnesota products and services at international trade shows;

(4) organize, promote, and present international trade shows featuring Minnesota products and services;

(5) host trade delegations and assist foreign traders in contacting appropriate Minnesota businesses and investments;

(6) develop contacts with Minnesota businesses and gather and provide information to assist them in locating and communicating with international trading or joint venture counterparts;

(7) provide information, education, and counseling services to Minnesota businesses regarding the economic, commercial, legal, and cultural contexts of international trade;

(8) provide Minnesota businesses with international trade leads and information about the availability and sources of services relating to international trade, such as export financing, licensing, freight forwarding, international advertising, translation, and custom brokering;

(9) locate, attract, and promote foreign investment and business development in Minnesota to enhance employment opportunities in Minnesota;

(10) provide foreign businesses and investors desiring to locate facilities in Minnesota information regarding sources of governmental, legal, real estate, financial, and business services;

(11) undertake activities to support the world trade center; and

(12) enter into contracts or other agreements with private persons and public entities to carry out the purposes of promoting international trade and attracting investment from foreign countries to Minnesota and to carry out this section, without regard to sections 16B.07 and 16B.09.

(b) The programs and activities of the commissioner of trade and economic development and the Minnesota trade office may not duplicate programs and activities of the commissioner of agriculture.

Subd. 2. Agricultural promotion. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade office shall cooperate and consult with the commissioner of agriculture in promoting the beneficial agricultural interests of the state. The commissioner of trade and economic development and the director of the Minnesota trade office shall have the primary responsibility for promoting state agricultural interests to international markets. The commissioner of agriculture has primary responsibility for promoting the agricultural interests of producers, promoting state agricultural markets, and promoting the agricultural interests of the state in cooperative production and marketing efforts with other states and the United States Department of Agriculture.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 4

116J.9671 TRADE AND EXPORT DEVELOPMENT.

The commissioner of the department of trade and economic development shall encourage and develop commerce and devise ways and means of removing trade barriers hampering the free flow of commerce between this and other states.

History: 1983 c 289 s 6; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 1; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 3,8

116J.9672 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of section 116J.9673, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Finance authority.** "Finance authority" means the export finance authority.

Subd. 3. **Preexport.** "Preexport" means that period of time between the formation of a sale and the actual shipment of the goods.

Subd. 4. **Postexport.** "Postexport" means the period of time between a shipment of goods and receipt of final payment for the goods.

History: 1983 c 289 s 7; 1984 c 461 s 1; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 1; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 8

116J.9673 EXPORT FINANCE AUTHORITY.

Subdivision 1. **Creation; purpose.** The export finance authority is created to aid and facilitate the financing of exports from this state. The finance authority powers shall be used exclusively to meet the credit needs of Minnesota exporters.

Subd. 2. **Board of directors.** The governor shall appoint six members to the authority's board of directors. The six members shall be knowledgeable in international finance, exporting, or international law. The commissioner of the department of trade and economic development shall be chair of the board. Membership, terms, compensation and removals are governed by section 15.0575. Board members shall perform their duties in a non-self-serving manner and in compliance with section 10A.07.

Subd. 3. **Powers.** The finance authority has the power and authority to perform the following functions and may:

(1) insure, coinsure, and guarantee against commercial preexport and postexport credit risks;

(2) sue and be sued;

(3) enter into agreements and transactions with any person, partnership, or corporation, both foreign and domestic, state, federal, and foreign governments and governmental agencies;

(4) acquire and hold personal and real property pursuant to the provisions of insurance and the granting of guarantees;

(5) pledge and appropriate collateral;

(6) charge premiums, interest, and fees;

(7) provide administrative, consultative, and technical services to assist in the financing of exports;

(8) prepare and receive reports regarding credit, insurance, and guarantees with respect to export finance;

(9) perform all necessary and appropriate operations, administration, processing, and marketing functions related to the authority's functions; and

(10) adopt rules necessary to carry out responsibilities under this section.

Subd. 4. **Working capital account.** An export finance authority working capital account is created as a special account in the state treasury. All premiums and interest collected under subdivision 3, clause (6), must be deposited into this account. Fees collected must be credited to the general fund. The balance in the account may exceed \$1,000,000 through accumulated earnings. Money in the account including interest earned and appropriations made by the legislature for the purposes of this section, is appropriated annually to the finance authority for the purposes of this section. The balance in the account may decline below \$1,000,000 as required to pay defaults on guaranteed loans.

Subd. 5. **Annual report.** The chair and board of directors shall submit to the governor an annual report on the activities of the finance authority.

Subd. 6. **Liability limitation.** The finance authority may not have at any one time net liabilities greater than four times its capital and reserves.

Subd. 7. **Insurance and guarantees.** The finance authority may provide insurance and guarantees to the following extent:

(1) The finance authority may not provide to any one person insurance or guarantees in excess of \$250,000 for preexport transactions and \$250,000 for postexport transactions. When insuring, coinsuring, or guaranteeing the postexport portion of transactions, the finance authority shall retain not more than ten percent of the commercial risk, or alternatively, the normal and standard deductible of the insurance policy.

(2) The policy of the finance authority is to provide insurance and guarantees for export credits that would otherwise not be made and that the chair and the board deem to represent a reasonable risk and have a sufficient likelihood of repayment.

(3) The finance authority shall contract with, among others, the Foreign Credit Insurance Association, the United States Export-Import Bank, and private insurers to secure insurance or reinsurance for country and commercial risks for the finance authority's insurance program. The finance authority may purchase insurance policies using money from the finance authority's appropriations.

(4) Losses incurred by the finance authority that relate to its insurance or guarantee activities shall be solely borne by the finance authority to the extent of its capital and reserves.

Subd. 8. **Staffing.** The commissioner of the department of trade and economic development shall provide staff to work for the finance authority.

History: 1983 c 289 s 8; 1984 c 461 s 2-5; 1986 c 444; 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 1; 1987 c 396 art 10 s 8; 1988 c 686 art 1 s 46; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 51

116J.968 [Repealed, 1989 c 335 art 4 s 109]

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

116J.970 SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DUTIES.

The commissioner shall:

(1) provide assistance to the committee on science and technology research and development established in section 116J.971;

(2) prepare and deliver to the legislature every January 15, a science and technology annual report that shall contain:

(i) a list of the scientifically and technologically related research and development projects and development activities funded by a grant or loan of state money;

(ii) guidelines that the legislature may use in allocating state grant or loan money for scientifically and technologically related research and development projects, to include assessments of emerging technologies and those technologies that provide significant promise for the development of job-creating businesses; and

(iii) an analysis of the efficacy and completeness of the decentralized research peer review processes mandated in section 116J.971, subdivision 6, with special emphasis on whether or not scientifically and technologically related research and development projects in Minnesota are in conformance with the guidelines established in section 116J.971, subdivision 6, and whether or not the scientifically and technologically related research and development projects have or will result in creating scientifically and technologically related jobs;

(3) keep a current roster of technology intensive businesses in the state;

(4) collect and disseminate information on financial, technical, marketing, management, and other services available to technology intensive small and emerging businesses, including potential sources of debt and equity capital;

(5) review the technological development potential of various regions of the state and cooperate with and make recommendations to the legislature, state agencies, the Greater Minnesota Corporation, local governments, local technology development

agencies, the federal government, private businesses, and individuals for the realization of the development potential; and

(6) sponsor and conduct conferences and studies, collect and disseminate information, and issue periodic reports relating to scientifically and technologically related research and development, and education in the state and represent the state at appropriate interstate and national conferences.

History: 1987 c 314 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 156

NOTE: This section is repealed by Laws 1988, chapter 629, section 23, effective June 30, 1993. See section 116J.971, subdivision 10.

116J.971 COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.

Subdivision 1. **Membership.** The committee on science and technology research and development consists of:

- (1) a chair appointed by the governor to a four-year term;
- (2) eight members appointed by the governor to six-year terms;
- (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives at the beginning of each biennium to a two-year term;
- (4) one member appointed by the minority leader of the house of representatives at the beginning of each biennium to a two-year term;
- (5) one member appointed by the majority leader of the senate at the beginning of each biennium to a two-year term; and
- (6) one member appointed by the minority leader of the senate at the beginning of each biennium to a two-year term.

At least one member must be appointed from each of the regions established in subdivision 2.

Subd. 2. **Rural region representation.** The department of trade and economic development shall divide the part of the state located outside of the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, into six regions. A region's boundaries must be coterminous with the boundaries of one or more of the development regions established under section 462.385.

Subd. 3. **Qualifications and duties of the committee on science and technology research and development.** Members of the committee on science and technology research and development must be qualified in at least one of the five following areas: economic development, academic and applied research, the administration of research, the review of research processes, and the management and development of technology intensive companies. The committee shall:

- (i) advise upon and approve by a majority vote the guidelines required by section 116J.970, clause (2), item (ii);
- (ii) advise the commissioner on the preparation of the analysis required by section 116J.970, clause (2), item (iii);
- (iii) approve the assignment of ad hoc advisory committees on science and technology research and development as needed; and
- (iv) review and comment upon, if the committee considers it to be necessary, the reports of the ad hoc advisory committees and forward the reports to the commissioner.

Subd. 4. **Ad hoc advisory committees.** To perform the acts required by section 116J.970, clause (2), the committee on science and technology research and development may, from time to time, approve the creation and use of ad hoc advisory committees composed of three to 15 members each. Members of the committee on science and technology research and development may be ad hoc committee members, but members of the permanent committee may not be a majority of an ad hoc committee.

Subd. 5. **Compensation.** Members of the committee on science and technology research and development and of the ad hoc advisory committees receive no compensation but payment of their expenses is governed by section 15.059, subdivision 6.

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Subd. 6. Peer review plans. A state agency, board, commission, authority, institution or other entity, including the Greater Minnesota Corporation, that allocates state money by a grant, loan, or contract for scientifically and technologically related research shall establish a peer review system to evaluate the research. The committee on science and technology research and development shall recommend guidelines for establishing effective peer review. An agency, board, commission, authority, or institution that funds scientifically and technologically related research shall, at least biennially, present to the committee on science and technology research and development or to ad hoc committees, as determined by the committee on science and technology research and development, a review and evaluation of the peer review process used in that organization.

Subd. 7. Authority to perform requested evaluations. The governor, commissioner, speaker of the house of representatives, house of representatives minority leader, senate majority leader, senate minority leader, chair of the house of representatives appropriations committee, chair of the senate finance committee, or a member of the legislature considering the introduction or approval of legislation containing funding for scientifically and technologically related research and development, may request the committee on science and technology research and development to evaluate a loan or grant made or to be made or the proposed legislation for funding scientifically and technologically related research and development to determine (1) whether it complies with the guidelines required by section 116J.970, clause (2), item (ii); (2) whether it is technically feasible; and (3) for development proposals, whether the proposal appears to have the potential for economic development. Ad hoc committees may be appointed by the committee on science and technology research and development to perform these reviews.

Subd. 8. Authority for review and comment upon research and development programs. Each agency, board, commission, authority, institution or other entity, including the Greater Minnesota Corporation, that allocates state money by a grant, loan, or a contract for scientifically and technologically related research and development must notify the commissioner within 60 days of making a loan or grant for scientifically or technologically related research and development. The notice shall contain a summary of the nature of and significant objectives of the research and development project funded by a grant or loan. The notice must also include information on the size and timing of previous grants or loans and anticipated additional funding needs. The committee on science and technology research and development shall, at least once each biennium, review scientifically and technologically related research funded by a state agency, board, commission, authority, institution or other entity, including the Greater Minnesota Corporation, to assess whether or not the research and development is conducted in accordance with the guidelines required by section 116J.970, clause (2), item (ii). The committee's assessment shall be sent to the legislature on or before January 15 of every odd-numbered year.

Subd. 9. Staff appointments. The commissioner shall appoint those staff members necessary to perform the duties of the commissioner required under section 116J.970. The commissioner shall appoint in the unclassified service an executive director of the committee on science and technology research and development. The executive director must hold a postbaccalaureate degree in scientific or technologically related studies, or demonstrate experience in technological policy formulation.

Subd. 10. Expiration. This section and section 116J.970 are repealed June 30, 1993.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2; 1987 c 314 s 2; 1988 c 629 s 23; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 157-161

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

116J.980 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

Subdivision 1. Duties. The community development division is a division within the department of trade and economic development. It shall:

(1) be responsible for administering all state community development and assistance programs, including the economic recovery account, the outdoor recreation grant program, the rural development board programs, the community development corporation program, the urban revitalization program, the Minnesota public facilities authority loan and grant programs, and the enterprise zone program;

(2) be responsible for state administration of federally funded community development and assistance programs, including the small cities development grant program and land and water conservation program;

(3) provide technical assistance to rural communities for community development in cooperation with regional development commissions;

(4) coordinate the development and review of state rural development policies;

(5) provide staff and consultant services to the rural development board; and

(6) be responsible for coordinating community assistance and development programs in cooperation with regional development commissions.

Subd. 2. General complement authority. The community development division may combine all related state and federal complement positions into general fund positions, to carry out the responsibilities under subdivision 1. The number of general fund positions must not exceed the aggregate number of all state and federal positions that are to be combined. Records of the actual number of employee hours charged to each state and federal account must be maintained for each general fund position.

Subd. 3. Coordination required for housing related grants. The commissioner must coordinate with the commissioner of the Minnesota housing finance agency to ensure that housing related grant applications for the small cities community development block grant program under section 116J.401 are consistent with the agency's most recent housing affordability plan and do not duplicate existing state housing programs.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2; 1987 c 386 art 4 s 1; 1989 c 335 art 4 s 106; 1990 c 429 s 1

116J.981 MAIN STREET PROGRAM.

The commissioner shall develop and administer a main street program to assist cities in the revitalization of their businesses. The purpose of the program is to strengthen local organization and local management of business districts so that cities become more self-reliant and not dependent on future state financial assistance. The staff dedicated for this program shall assist cities that request assistance in the following manner:

(1) improving the organization of a city's business district including the leadership skills of business owners and city officials;

(2) establishing a marketing strategy to promote a city's business district to residents of the surrounding trade area;

(3) providing technical assistance in the design and rehabilitation of buildings in a city's business district including historic preservation; and

(4) establishing a strategy to strengthen existing businesses, recruit new businesses, diversify the mix of businesses, and develop vacant property in a city's business district.

History: 1987 c 386 art 4 s 2

116J.982 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATIONS.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the terms in this subdivision have the meanings given them:

(a) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of trade and economic development.

(b) "Economic development region" means an area so designated in the governor's executive order number 60, dated June 12, 1970, as amended.

(c) "Federal poverty level" means the income level established by the United States Community Services Administration in Code of Federal Regulations, title 45, section 1060.2-2.

(d) "Low income" means an annual income below the federal poverty level.

Subd. 2. Administration. The commissioner shall administer this section and shall enforce the rules related to the community development corporations adopted by the commissioner. The commissioner may amend, suspend, repeal, or otherwise modify these rules as provided for in chapter 14.

Subd. 3. Grants; corporations eligible. (a) The commissioner shall designate a community development corporation as eligible to receive grants under this section if the corporation is a nonprofit corporation incorporated under chapter 317A and meets the other criteria in this subdivision.

(b) The corporation, in its articles of incorporation or bylaws, shall designate a specific geographic community within which it will operate. At least ten percent of the population within the designated community must have low incomes. Within the metropolitan area as defined in section 473.121, subdivision 2, a designated community must be an identifiable neighborhood or a combination of neighborhoods or home rule charter or statutory cities, townships, unincorporated areas, or combinations of those entities. Outside the metropolitan area, designated communities, so far as possible, may not cross existing economic development boundaries. If a proposed geographic area overlaps the designated community of a community development corporation existing before August 1, 1987, the proposed community development corporation shall obtain the written consent of the existing community development corporation before the proposed corporation may be designated as eligible to receive grants under this section.

(c) The corporation shall limit voting membership to residents of its designated area.

(d) The corporation shall have a board of directors with 15 to 30 members unless the corporation can demonstrate to the satisfaction of the commissioner that a smaller or larger board is more advantageous. At least 40 percent of the directors must have incomes that do not exceed 80 percent of the county median family income or 80 percent of the statewide median family income as determined by the state demographer, whichever is less, and the remaining directors must be members of the business or financial community and the community at large. To the greatest extent possible, and at least 60 percent of, the directors must be residents of the designated community. Directors who meet the income limitations of this paragraph must be elected by the members of the corporation. The remaining directors may be elected by the members or appointed by the directors who meet the income limitations of this paragraph.

(e) The corporation shall hire low-income residents of the designated community to fill nonmanagerial and nonprofessional positions.

(f) The corporation shall demonstrate that it has or will have the technical skills to analyze projects, that it is familiar with other available public and private funding sources and economic development programs, and that it is capable of packaging economic development projects.

Subd. 4. Grant approval for projects. The commissioner shall approve a grant to a community development corporation only for a project carried on within the designated community, except when the corporation demonstrates that a project carried on outside will have a significant impact inside the designated community.

Subd. 5. Use of grant. The commissioner may approve a grant to a community development corporation for planning, including organization of the corporation, training of the directors, creation of a comprehensive community economic development plan, and development of a proposal for a venture grant, or for establishment of a business venture, including assistance to an existing business venture, purchase of partial or full ownership of a business venture, or development of resources or facilities necessary for the establishment of a business venture.

Subd. 6. Assignee. The commissioner must be named as an assignee of the rights of a state-funded community development corporation on any loan or other evidence of debt provided by a community development corporation to a private enterprise. The

assignment of rights must provide that it will be effective upon the dormancy or cessation of existence of the community development corporation. "Dormancy" for the purpose of this section means the continuation of the corporation in name only without any functioning officers or activities. Upon the cessation of the activities of a state-funded community development corporation, any assigned money paid to the commissioner must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the general fund.

Subd. 6a. **Secondary market.** A community development corporation may sell, at private or public sale, at the price or prices determined by the corporation, any note, mortgage, lease, sublease, lease purchase, or other instrument or obligation evidencing or securing a loan made for the purpose of economic development, job creation, redevelopment, or community revitalization by a public agency to a business, for-profit or nonprofit organization, or an individual.

Subd. 7. **Factors for grant approval.** Factors considered by the commissioner in approving a grant to a community development corporation must include the creation of employment opportunities, the maximization of profit, and the effect on securing money from sources other than the state.

Subd. 8. **Prohibition.** Grants under this section are not available for programs conducted by churches or religious organizations or for securing or developing social services.

Subd. 9. **No exclusion.** A person may not be excluded from participation in a program funded under this section because of race, color, religion, sex, age, or national origin.

History: 1987 c 312 art 1 s 26 subd 2; 1987 c 386 art 4 s 3; 1988 c 580 s 2; 1989 c 304 a 137

116J.983 DEFINITIONS.

Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of section 116J.984, the following terms have the meanings given them.

Subd. 2. **Community and neighborhood development organization grant.** "Community and neighborhood development organization grant" or "grant" means a grant awarded under section 116J.984, subdivision 1.

Subd. 3. **Community and neighborhood department organization plan.** "Community and neighborhood department organization plan" or "plan" means the plan required under section 116J.984, subdivision 2.

Subd. 4. **Eligible organization.** "Eligible organization" means a nonprofit organization or group of persons that is recognized as a viable community or neighborhood organization by a home rule charter or statutory city, town, or an Indian tribe, and that has defined neighborhood or community boundaries. An eligible organization must have a board that is representative of the neighborhood's or community's interests and whose members reflect the cultural, racial, and ethnic diversity of the neighborhood or community. An eligible organization or group of persons must complete training and be certified as required under section 116J.984, subdivision 3.

History: 1989 c 328 art 5 s 1

116J.984 COMMUNITY AND NEIGHBORHOOD DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATION PILOT PROJECT.

Subdivision 1. **Community and neighborhood development grants.** The commissioner may award matching grants to eligible organizations. Grants to any one eligible organization may not exceed \$25,000 in any fiscal year and a grant may not be used for any purpose that replaces an existing community program identified by the commissioner. Each grant must be matched with at least two dollars of nonstate money or in-kind contributions to each dollar of grant money. The grants may be used for community or neighborhood public safety and human service activities, street and public property lighting, recycling efforts, repair or removal of dilapidated buildings, community or neighborhood beautification and cleanup, historic preservation of buildings,

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small scale park and open space development, increasing or preserving the availability of housing primarily serving low- or moderate-income persons, and other projects, programs, or activities that the commissioner determines will improve or revitalize the community or neighborhood.

Subd. 2. Grant applications. Eligible organizations may apply to the commissioner for grants awarded under subdivision 1. The application must include a community and neighborhood development organization plan that addresses the following:

- (1) a geographic, social, and economic description of the area served by the eligible organization;
- (2) a description of why the projects or activities are required in the neighborhood or community;
- (3) a detailed description of the objectives for which the grant money will be used;
- (4) a description of the process used to encourage citizen involvement in determining the needs, objectives, and the design of the project or activity;
- (5) an assessment of the strength and weaknesses of the neighborhood or community;
- (6) a detailed description of the projects or activities that will be used to implement the objectives;
- (7) a description of the expected outcomes of the projects or activities financed by the grant;
- (8) identification of the source of the required matching funds; and
- (9) any other information the commissioner determines necessary to award the grants.

Subd. 3. Training; certification. Before an eligible organization may apply for a grant under subdivision 1, the commissioner must certify that the eligible organization meets administrative, fiscal accountability, and planning requirements. The commissioner shall establish a set of criteria for the certification of eligible organizations. The commissioner may provide leadership and other training to eligible organizations to assist them in meeting the requirements for certification and developing the community and neighborhood development organization plan. The commissioner may use other department resources and staff to carry out the training.

Subd. 4. Recertification. An eligible organization must be recertified annually to maintain its eligibility for grants under subdivision 1. As part of recertification, the commissioner shall review the plan to determine whether the organization continues to address its objectives and the organization demonstrates that the community or neighborhood's level of volunteer citizen participation is maintained or expanded.

Subd. 5. Applications; priority. The commissioner may establish criteria to establish the priority of the applications received for grants awarded under subdivision 1. The criteria may include:

- (1) the degree of community support measured by the amount of participation in the project or activities by volunteers;
- (2) the extent that the eligible organizations have participated with or solicited input from other organizations that provide community and regional assistance;
- (3) the amount of nonstate matching funds identified as available for the project or activities; and
- (4) any other criteria the commissioner determines necessary to carry out the purposes of this section.

Subd. 6. Entitlement. The commissioner may set aside up to 40 percent of the money available under this section for grants awarded to eligible organizations located in cities of the first class as defined in section 410.01.

Subd. 7. Local government support. Before an application for a grant awarded under subdivision 1 may be considered by the commissioner, the eligible organization must have received a formal resolution of support for the application of the governing

body of the home rule charter or statutory city, town, or Indian tribe within whose jurisdiction the eligible organization is located.

Subd. 8. Community assistance program inventory. The commissioner may develop and maintain an inventory of public and private community assistance programs. The inventory must be made available to eligible organizations, other community assistance providers, and other persons that request assistance from the commissioner. In developing the inventory the commissioner shall coordinate with other similar activities.

Subd. 9. Rules. The commissioner may adopt rules under chapter 14 as necessary for the administration of the grants under this section.

Subd. 10. State agency cooperation. State agencies must cooperate and assist when requested by the commissioner to carry out the purposes of this section.

Subd. 11. Advisory committee. The commissioner may establish advisory committees to assist in carrying out the purposes of this section.

History: 1989 c 328 art 5 s 2

116J.985 CERTIFIED DEVELOPMENT COMPANY.

Subdivision 1. Purpose; objectives. The commissioner may create, promote, and assist a development company that will qualify as a certified development company for the purposes of United States Code, title 15, section 697, and Code of Federal Regulations, title 13, section 108.503.

The commissioner shall use the development company program, in conjunction with the other economic development programs administered by the department, to stimulate the state's economic activity.

The development company and its directors and officers shall comply with the organizational, operational, regulatory, and reporting requirements as adopted by the United States Small Business Administration and the Minnesota department of trade and economic development; the guidelines contained in the bylaws; the articles of incorporation; and standard operating procedure prescribed by the Small Business Administration.

Subd. 2. Capital, loan limits; membership requirements. The capital for a certified development company must be derived from corporate holders or members, each of whom must not have more than ten percent of the voting control of the development company. The company must have a minimum of 25 members. The members of the company from each economic development region must represent, to the greatest extent practical, the same proportion of the membership of the company as the population of the economic development region is of the population of the state.

Subd. 3. Members. Members must be representatives of local government, community organizations, financial institutions, and businesses in Minnesota and must, upon application, have been accepted for membership by a majority vote of the members of the board of directors present at a regular or special meeting of the board at which there is a quorum. Department of trade and economic development staff may not be members of the development company. A "financial institution" is a business organization recognized under Minnesota or federal law as a banking institution, trust company, savings and loan association, insurance company, or a corporation, partnership, foundation, or other institution licensed to do business in Minnesota and engaged primarily in lending or investing money.

Subd. 4. Membership applications. Applications for membership must be submitted to the development company's board of directors on forms provided by the commissioner and accompanied by additional information as the form may require. Application forms must provide that if the application is approved and the applicant accepted for membership by the development company's board of directors before withdrawal of the application, the applicant agrees to become a member upon the acceptance and to assume the rights and obligations of a member. Notice of approval or rejection of an application must be forwarded, by certified or registered United

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States mail, to the applicant for the attention of the person signing the application, within 15 days following the date when the approval or rejection is made. Approval of the application constitutes acceptance of the applicant as a member of the corporation.

Subd. 5. Board of directors. The development company bylaws must provide for a board of directors consisting of the commissioner of trade and economic development as chairperson, a vice-chairperson, and other members who are geographically representative of the state.

Subd. 6. Officers. The executive officers of the development company are a president, one or more vice-presidents including the executive vice-president, a secretary, and a treasurer. The commissioner of trade and economic development is the president of the development company. None of the officers, except the president, need be directors. One person may hold the offices and perform the duties of any two or more of the offices. The development company's board of directors by majority vote may leave unfilled, for any period it may fix, any office except that of president, treasurer, or secretary.

Subd. 7. Administration. The commissioner of trade and economic development shall administer all certified development company programs.

Subd. 8. Reports. The development company shall submit annual operation reports to the Small Business Administration and the state legislature. When requested by the Small Business Administration or the state legislature, interim reports of a similar nature must be provided. The reports must be provided in accordance with the instructions and attachments set by the Small Business Administration. The development company shall comply with all regulations issued under the Small Business Investment Act of 1958, as amended; department of trade and economic development operating procedures; and applicable state and federal laws affecting its operation.

Subd. 9. Revolving account. The development company may charge a one-time processing fee up to the maximum allowed by the Small Business Administration on a debenture issued for loan purposes. In addition, a fee for servicing loans may be imposed up to the maximum allowed by the Small Business Administration based on the unpaid balance of each debenture. These fees must be deposited in the state treasury and credited to an account in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner to pay the costs of administering the program, including personnel costs; compensate members of the board of directors under section 15.0575, subdivision 3; and create and operate a pool of money for investment in projects that further the purposes of this section.

History: 1989 c 335 art 1 s 162