

## CHAPTER 1160

## MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY, INC.

1160.03 Corporation; board of directors; powers.  
1160.09 Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.

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**1160.03 CORPORATION; BOARD OF DIRECTORS; POWERS.**

*[For text of subds 1 and 1a, see M.S.2002]*

Subd. 2. **Board of directors.** The corporation is governed by a board of directors. The selection, membership terms, compensation, removal, and filling of vacancies of members of the board are as provided in the corporation's bylaws.

*[For text of subds 3 to 11, see M.S.2002]*

**History:** 2003 c 128 art 15 s 3

**1160.09 AGRICULTURAL UTILIZATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE.**

Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute is established as a nonprofit corporation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended. The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute shall promote the establishment of new products and product uses and the expansion of existing markets for the state's agricultural commodities and products, including direct financial and technical assistance for Minnesota entrepreneurs. The institute must establish or maintain facilities and work with private and public entities to leverage the resources available to achieve maximum results for Minnesota agriculture.

Subd. 1a. **Board of directors.** The board of directors of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute is comprised of:

- (1) the chairs of the senate and the house of representatives standing committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance or the chair's designee;
- (2) two representatives of statewide farm organizations;
- (3) two representatives of agribusiness; and
- (4) three representatives of the commodity promotion councils.

A member of the board of directors under clauses (2) to (4), including a member serving on July 1, 2003, may serve for a maximum of two three-year terms. The board's compensation is governed by section 15.0575, subdivision 3.

Subd. 2. **Duties.** (a) In addition to the duties and powers assigned to the institutes in section 1160.08, the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute shall:

- (1) identify development opportunities for agricultural products;
- (2) implement a program that identifies techniques to meet those opportunities;
- (3) monitor and coordinate research among the public and private organizations and individuals specifically addressing procedures to transfer new technology to businesses, farmers, and individuals;
- (4) provide research grants to public and private educational institutions and other organizations that are undertaking basic and applied research to promote the development of emerging agricultural industries;
- (5) assist organizations and individuals with market analysis and product marketing implementations;
- (6) to the extent possible earn and receive revenue from contracts, patents, licenses, royalties, grants, fees-for-service, and memberships;
- (7) work with the Department of Agriculture, the United States Department of Agriculture, the Department of Employment and Economic Development, and other

agencies to maximize marketing opportunities locally, nationally, and internationally; and

(8) leverage available funds from federal, state, and private sources to develop new markets and value added opportunities for Minnesota agricultural products.

(b) The Agricultural Utilization Research Institute board of directors shall have the sole approval authority for establishing agricultural utilization research priorities, requests for proposals to meet those priorities, awarding of grants, hiring and direction of personnel, and other expenditures of funds consistent with the adopted and approved mission and goals of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute. The actions and expenditures of the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute are subject to audit. The institute shall annually report by February 1 to the senate and house of representatives standing committees with jurisdiction over agricultural policy and funding. The report must list projects initiated, progress on projects, and financial information relating to expenditures, income from other sources, and other information to allow the committees to evaluate the effectiveness of the institute's activities.

*[For text of subds 3 to 13, see M.S.2002]*

**History:** 2003 c 128 art 3 s 41-43; 1Sp2003 c 4 s 1; 1Sp2003 c 23 s 4

#### 1160.091 PROJECT OUTREACH.

*[For text of subd 1, see M.S.2002]*

Subd. 4. **Duties.** The 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 database or databases 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 database 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 database;

(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 a system to reference experts in the state university system; and

(8) make available the database of the business assistance referral system to the legislature, the Department of Employment 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 corporation shall consult with the Department of Employment and Economic Development in the development and marketing of the business assistance referral system. The corporation shall assist the Department of Employment 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.

*[For text of subd 6, see M.S.2002]*

Subd. 7. **Advisory committees.** An advisory committee is created to assist in selecting vendors and evaluating the corporation's project outreach activities. The advisory committee shall include the president of the University of Minnesota or the president's designee, the commissioner of employment and economic development or the commissioner's designee, the chair of the Minnesota Technology, Inc., board of directors or the chair's designee, 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, and at least five users of project outreach services appointed by the named members. The advisory committee expires June 30, 2004.

**History:** 2003 c 128 art 15 s 4; 1Sp2003 c 4 s 1

#### **1160.12 MINNESOTA TECHNOLOGY ACCOUNT.**

The Minnesota technology account is in the special revenue fund. Money in the account not needed for the immediate purposes of the corporation may be invested by the State Board of Investment in any way authorized by section 11A.24. Money in the account is appropriated to the corporation to be used as provided in this chapter.

**History:** 2003 c 128 art 15 s 5