



# DEED 2024 Legislative Policy Proposals

**Commissioner Matt Varilek**

March 6, 2024

# Our Mission

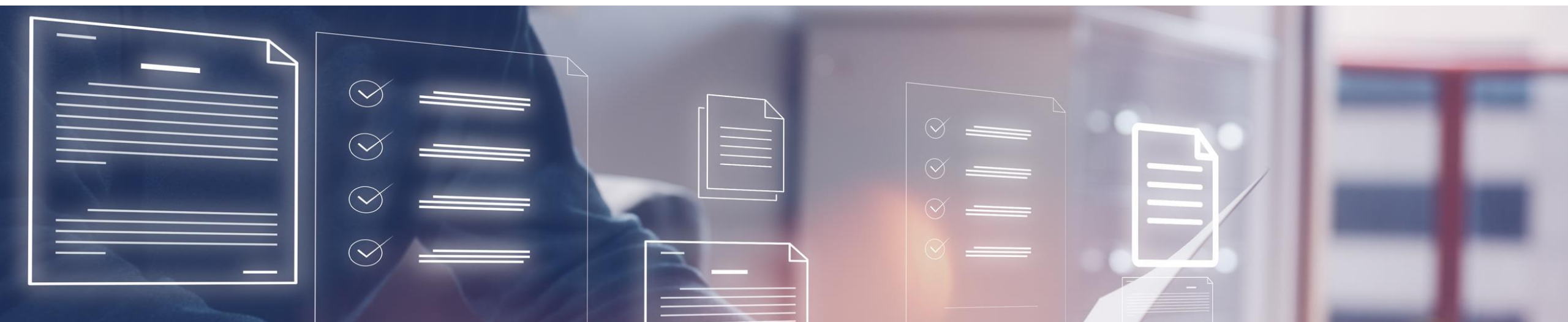
A graphic with a dark blue background and diagonal stripes. It features the Minnesota logo (a stylized 'm' with a green accent) at the top, followed by the text 'EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT'. Below this is the title 'OUR MISSION' in large green letters, followed by the mission statement 'To empower the growth of the Minnesota economy, for everyone.' in white. At the bottom, the values are listed in white: 'OUR VALUES: FOCUS ON THE CUSTOMER • COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN SEEK SOLUTIONS • CREATE INCLUSION • ENCOURAGE NEW IDEAS • BE GRACIOUS'.

**m** EMPLOYMENT AND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**OUR MISSION**

To empower the growth of the  
Minnesota economy, for everyone.

**OUR VALUES:** FOCUS ON THE CUSTOMER • COMMUNICATE EARLY AND OFTEN  
SEEK SOLUTIONS • CREATE INCLUSION • ENCOURAGE NEW IDEAS • BE GRACIOUS



# 2024 Legislative Policy Proposals

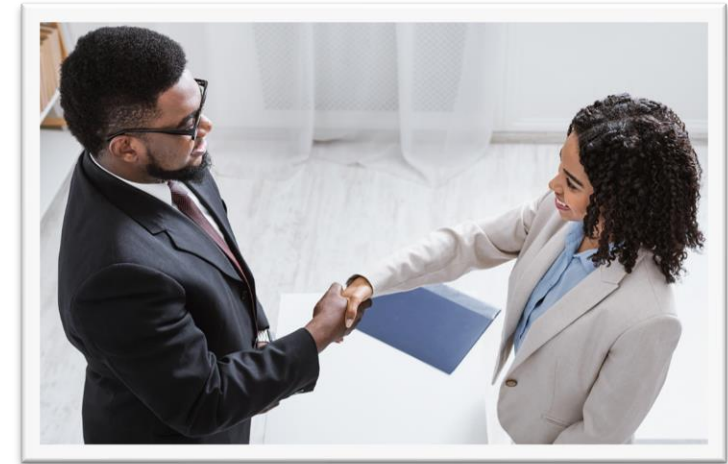
# Enhance Flexibility within the Job Creation Fund

Proposed changes to the Job Creation Fund (JCF) (116J.8748) would measure job creation in **full-time equivalents** to better reflect modern jobs.

Add language to the definition of full-time employee to include:

“has expected work hours of at least 2,080 hours annually **or the equivalent of annualized expected hours of work equal to 2,080 hours of one or more employees.**”

This change is responsive to employment differences across industries and will create consistency between the JCF and the Minnesota Investment Fund (MIF), a similar business financing program.



America's Top States for Business 2023: The full rankings

## AMERICA'S TOP STATES FOR BUSINESS 2023

OVERALL RANK ↕	STATE ↕	WORK-FORCE ↕	INFRA-STRUCTURE ↕	ECONOMY ↕	LIFE, HEALTH & INCLUSION ↕
1	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	1	16	3	34
2	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	7	10	13	16
3	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	9	3	5	43
4	<a href="#">Georgia</a>	8	1	4	39
5	<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	17	3	24	4



# Refine the Innovative Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program

This proposal makes technical changes to the **Innovation Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program (116J.435)** in response to requests by local units of government that will improve access to qualifying projects. These changes will:

- Allow for rolling applications for funds, making the program more responsive
- Provide clarification around match requirements
- Clearly outline project scoring criteria



# Increase Representation on the Energy Transition Advisory Council

- The Energy Transition Advisory Council (ETAC) (116J.5492) provides recommendations to the state for communities that will be impacted by fossil fuel-based power plant closures.
- The ETAC has representatives from impacted communities, industries and workers but no voices from impacted school districts.
- This proposal adds a seat on the ETAC that represents a school district impacted by the energy transition.





# Other Jobs Bill Technical Fixes

- Add language for the Northland Foundation to receive administrative funding to run the **Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program**.
- Adjust the timeline for **Launch Minnesota** to allow for the use of program funds over a four-year period (for program flexibility).





# Dislocated Worker Program Customer Expansion

In response to the state's workforce shortage, DEED proposes expanding the eligible populations who can access state dislocated worker services (116L.17).

Adding the following with an intent to increase labor force participation of individuals from underserved populations (and to make the program more responsive to the needs of employers):

- A **spouse of a member of the United States armed forces** who has lost employment due to a service member relocation, is unemployed or underemployed
- Individuals with **non-work-related injuries or illnesses** who need support to re-enter or remain in the workforce
- Adults with a **low income**, are a recipient of **public assistance** or are **basic skills deficient**





# Improve State Dislocated Worker Program Services

- The cost category limitations for the state Dislocated Worker program **no longer reflect the needs of dislocated workers.**
- The current cost categories require significantly more resources to be made available for “career services” rather than “training services” – **making it harder for the program to serve more challenged individuals.**
- Eliminating strict cost categories for this program will allow **local areas to tailor their programs** to best **meet the needs** of their participants. This change will also better align the state Dislocated Worker program with the federal, which does not have cost category limitations.



# Thank you!