

1.1 Senator moves to amend S.F. No. 486 as follows:

1.2 Delete everything after the enacting clause and insert:

1.3 "Section 1. **[216C.392] SUPPLEMENTAL ENERGY ASSISTANCE GRANT**
1.4 **PROGRAM.**

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

1.7 (b) "LIHEAP" has the meaning the given in section 142G.02, subdivision 59.

1.8 (c) "Crisis grant" means a grant to a low-income household to prevent shut-off of
1.9 residential energy sources, to reinstate service of residential energy sources, or to enable
1.10 delivery of residential fuel.

1.11 (d) "Primary energy grant" means a grant to help a low-income household maintain and
1.12 continue affordable energy service.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Establishment.** A supplemental energy assistance grant program is established
1.14 in the department to award grants to eligible applicants. The program will assist households
1.15 with low incomes, who pay a high proportion of household income for home energy, in
1.16 meeting their immediate home energy needs, providing assistance with the costs of heating,
1.17 cooling, and other home energy use throughout the year.

1.18 Subd. 3. **Applications; procedures.** (a) The commissioner must develop policies and
1.19 procedures governing the grant application and award process, leveraging existing LIHEAP
1.20 application processes and infrastructure to the maximum degree practicable.

1.21 (b) An eligible applicant must file an application with the commissioner on a form
1.22 developed by the commissioner. The form must be available to eligible applicants in a paper
1.23 and electronic format.

1.24 (c) The commissioner must accept grant applications under this section throughout the
1.25 year.

1.26 (d) The commissioner must issue grants throughout the fiscal year in which the money
1.27 is appropriated. The commissioner may issue grants in subsequent years until the allocated
1.28 funds are exhausted.

1.29 Subd. 4. **Eligibility.** A Minnesota resident whose household income is below the income
1.30 eligibility threshold identified in the Minnesota LIHEAP Detailed Model Plan submitted
1.31 to the U.S. Department of Health and Social Services for the respective program year
1.32 areeligible for a grant awarded under this section.

2.1 Subd. 5. **Grant awards.** (a) When awarding grants under this section, the commissioner
2.2 must give priority to expanding the number of households receiving energy assistance over
2.3 increasing grant amounts to households that already received assistance under LIHEAP
2.4 during the same year.

2.5 (b) To the extent practicable, available LIHEAP funds must be used for all primary
2.6 energy and crisis grants to eligible households before grants are awarded for energy and
2.7 crisis grants under this section.

2.8 Subd. 6. **Types of grants.** The commissioner may award grants for the following:

2.9 (1) crisis grants to households that received a LIHEAP primary energy grant from federal
2.10 funds but did not receive the maximum crisis grant amount while federal funds allocated
2.11 for crisis grants were available;

2.12 (2) primary energy and crisis grants to eligible households that did not receive LIHEAP
2.13 primary energy and crisis grants from federal funds;

2.14 (3) emergency heating system repair or replacement; and

2.15 (4) grants to support outreach.

2.16 Subd. 7. **Reporting.** (a) Beginning December 31, 2026, and annually thereafter until
2.17 December 31, 2031, the commissioner must publish a report regarding state supplemental
2.18 energy assistance funding under this section for the previous program year for October 1
2.19 to September 30.

2.20 (b) To the extent practicable, the following information on grants awarded under this
2.21 section must be reported by statewide total, by county, and by census tract within cities with
2.22 populations over 30,000:

2.23 (1) the number of households served;

2.24 (2) number of households served that did not receive LIHEAP primary energy grants;

2.25 (3) the average household primary energy benefit;

2.26 (4) the average household crisis benefit; and

2.27 (5) total energy costs.

2.28 (c) The following information on grants awarded under this section may be reported as
2.29 statewide totals:

2.30 (1) the average household income;

(2) income by percentage of the federal poverty level established by the United States Department of Health and Human Services;

(3) the number of households that include a person over 60 years old;

(4) the number of households that include a disabled person;

(5) the number of households that include a child under six years old; and

(6) the number of households served by race or ethnicity.

(d) Any reporting under this section must comply with chapter 13, and may suppress data to ensure the individual privacy of LIHEAP applicants.

Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

(a) \$..... in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for the supplemental energy assistance grant program. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2031.

(b) Of the amount appropriated in paragraph (a):

(1) 12.5 percent must be used for staffing and other costs associated with administering the supplemental energy assistance grant program under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.392, including program planning and preparation, taking applications and verifying information, and entering data into a central electronic system maintained by the Department of Commerce. Of this funding, up to 2.5 percent may be used by the Department of Commerce. The remaining amount allocated under this clause may be used to reimburse reasonable administrative costs incurred under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.392, by service providers contracted by the Department of Commerce to deliver LIHEAP services, including services under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.392; and

(2) five percent may be used to reimburse the reasonable costs incurred under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.392, by organizations the department has contracted with to provide outreach and assistance to households to complete grant applications under Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.392. Organizations that have the ability to conduct outreach to underserved communities and populations, including current service providers and other organizations, must be prioritized for outreach funding."