



## **S.F. No. 486 – Supplemental Energy Assistance Grant Program**

**Author:** Senator D. Scott Dibble

**Prepared by:** Olivia Syverson, Senate Counsel (olivia.syverson@mnsenate.gov)

**Date:** February 4, 2025

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**S.F. 486** establishes an energy assistance grant program administered by the department of commerce. The energy assistance grant program is a supplement to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). LIHEAP is a federal program that helps low-income households pay for home energy costs.

**Section 1** of the bill requires the commissioner to develop policies and procedures for the grant application and award process.

To be eligible for a grant, the applicant must be a Minnesota resident whose household income is less than 60 percent of the state median household income.

The commissioner must give priority to expanding the number of households receiving energy assistance over increasing grant amounts to households that already received assistance under LIHEAP during the same year.

The commissioner may award the following types of grants:

- (1) crisis grants to households that received a LIHEAP primary heat grant from federal funds but did not receive the maximum crisis amount;
- (2) primary heat and crisis grants to eligible households that did not receive LIHEAP primary heat and crisis grants;
- (3) emergency heating system repair or replacement; and
- (4) grants to support outreach.

Beginning December 31, 2026 to December 31, 2031, the commissioner is required to publish an annual report regarding the state supplemental energy assistance funding.

**Section 2** of the bill appropriates a blank amount from the general fund to the commissioner of commerce for the supplemental energy assistance grant program. Up to ten percent of the appropriate funds may be used to administer the grant program. Up to five percent of the funds may be used to reimburse organizations the Department of Commerce has contracted with to provide outreach and assistance to households to complete grant applications.



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95 University Ave. W., STE 3300, Saint Paul, MN, 55155