

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 661

(SENATE AUTHORS: GUSTAFSON and Housley)

DATE
01/27/2025

D-PG

Introduction and first reading
Referred to Jobs and Economic Development

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to economic development; creating a pilot program for provision of
1.3 information technology assistance for small businesses.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **SMALL BUSINESS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ASSISTANCE**
1.6 **PILOT PROGRAM.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. Pilot program established. A pilot program for small business
1.8 information technology (IT) assistance is established to provide computer technical support
1.9 and technology assistance to Minnesota small businesses.

1.10 Subd. 2. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have the
1.11 meanings given.

1.12 (b) "Information technology assistance" means help with the use of computer software,
1.13 hardware, networks, telecommunications, websites, and the Internet.

1.14 (c) "Small business" has the meaning given in section 3 of the Small Business Act,
1.15 United States Code, title 15, section 632.

1.16 Subd. 3. Pilot program. The pilot program established under this section must provide
1.17 IT assistance services to qualifying small businesses. The services must supplement existing
1.18 small business assistance services provided by the small business assistance office. The IT
1.19 assistance services must:

1.20 (1) provide Minnesota small businesses with free information technology assistance;

2.1 (2) establish a dedicated hotline for the service and publish the hotline telephone number
2.2 on the small business assistance office website;

2.3 (3) be supported by individuals with expertise in providing computer technical support;
2.4 and

2.5 (4) be staffed at a minimum from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

2.6 Subd. 4. **Reporting.** (a) By January 31, 2027, the commissioner of employment and
2.7 economic development must submit a report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction
2.8 over economic development on the pilot program.

2.9 (b) The report must include the following information:

2.10 (1) the number and size of the small businesses requesting IT assistance;

2.11 (2) the number of hours of IT assistance services provided; and

2.12 (3) demographic and geographic details of the small businesses served.

2.13 Subd. 5. **Appropriation.** \$..... in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund
2.14 to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the department's small
2.15 business assistance office to provide the services under this section. This is a onetime
2.16 appropriation.