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REVISOR of STATUTES

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MEMORANDUM

To: Chairman Kelly and members of the House Financial Institutions and Rural Development Committee
From: Office of Revisor of Statutes
Date: February 14, 2022
Subject: **HB 2623; Enacting the rural remote worker incentive act and providing definitions, requirements, procedures and administrative duties of the secretary of commerce regarding such incentives therefor.**

House Bill No. 2623 enacts the rural remote worker incentive act, which is under the administration of the secretary of commerce.

Section 1 provides the name and citation of the act.

Section 2 provides definitions for the act. "Remote job" is defined as a full-time permanent remote or mobile employee who works from such employee's residence or other space in a rural area for 30 more hours per week. The term does not include any part-time, temporary or seasonal employee. "Rural area" means a city with a population of 60,000 or less in a county with a population of 80,000 or less or a county with a population of 40,000 or less.

Section 3 establishes the incentives and the requirements for such incentives. A business that creates a minimum of five net new remote jobs in rural areas may apply to the secretary for incentives under the act. All remote jobs shall be at least 30 miles from the business location. The minimum wage for a remote job shall be equal to or greater than the county median wage where the remote job is located. In making an application to the secretary, the business shall include a copy of the quarterly wage and unemployment tax return form that the business submitted to the department of labor or other evidence as required by the secretary through rules and regulations. Subject to appropriations and upon approval by the secretary, the business shall receive a cash incentive payment of \$4,000 per net rural remote job created. The total amount of incentive payments shall not exceed \$600,000. The secretary shall adopt rules and regulations to implement and administer the provisions of this act.

Section 4 creates the rural remote worker incentive fund in the state treasury. The fund shall be administered by the secretary of commerce or the secretary's designee. All expenditures from the fund shall be for the purpose of paying the incentives in accordance with this act.

Section 5 provides that incentives under this act may be in addition to any other economic development program administered wholly or in part by the secretary.