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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. **772**

01/25/2023 Authored by Kraft; Long; Acomb; Olson, L.; Hollins and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Climate and Energy Finance and Policy  
02/08/2023 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Labor and Industry Finance and Policy

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to the State Building Code; modifying how the energy code for new
- 1.3 commercial buildings is adopted; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, section
- 1.4 326B.106, subdivision 1.
- 1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 326B.106, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
- 1.7 Subdivision 1. **Adoption of code.** (a) Subject to paragraphs (c) and (d) and sections
- 1.8 326B.101 to 326B.194, the commissioner shall by rule and in consultation with the
- 1.9 Construction Codes Advisory Council establish a code of standards for the construction,
- 1.10 reconstruction, alteration, and repair of buildings, governing matters of structural materials,
- 1.11 design and construction, fire protection, health, sanitation, and safety, including design and
- 1.12 construction standards regarding heat loss control, illumination, and climate control. The
- 1.13 code must also include duties and responsibilities for code administration, including
- 1.14 procedures for administrative action, penalties, and suspension and revocation of certification.
- 1.15 The code must conform insofar as practicable to model building codes generally accepted
- 1.16 and in use throughout the United States, including a code for building conservation. In the
- 1.17 preparation of the code, consideration must be given to the existing statewide specialty
- 1.18 codes presently in use in the state. Model codes with necessary modifications and statewide
- 1.19 specialty codes may be adopted by reference. The code must be based on the application
- 1.20 of scientific principles, approved tests, and professional judgment. To the extent possible,
- 1.21 the code must be adopted in terms of desired results instead of the means of achieving those
- 1.22 results, avoiding wherever possible the incorporation of specifications of particular methods
- 1.23 or materials. To that end the code must encourage the use of new methods and new materials.

2.1 Except as otherwise provided in sections 326B.101 to 326B.194, the commissioner shall  
2.2 administer and enforce the provisions of those sections.

2.3 (b) The commissioner shall develop rules addressing the plan review fee assessed to  
2.4 similar buildings without significant modifications including provisions for use of building  
2.5 systems as specified in the industrial/modular program specified in section 326B.194.  
2.6 Additional plan review fees associated with similar plans must be based on costs  
2.7 commensurate with the direct and indirect costs of the service.

2.8 (c) Beginning with the 2018 edition of the model building codes and every six years  
2.9 thereafter, the commissioner shall review the new model building codes and adopt the model  
2.10 codes as amended for use in Minnesota, within two years of the published edition date. The  
2.11 commissioner may adopt amendments to the building codes prior to the adoption of the  
2.12 new building codes to advance construction methods, technology, or materials, or, where  
2.13 necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, or to improve the efficiency  
2.14 or the use of a building.

2.15 (d) Notwithstanding paragraph (c), the commissioner shall act on each new model  
2.16 residential energy code and the new model commercial energy code in accordance with  
2.17 federal law for which the United States Department of Energy has issued an affirmative  
2.18 determination in compliance with United States Code, title 42, section 6833. The  
2.19 commissioner may adopt amendments prior to adoption of the new energy codes, as amended  
2.20 for use in Minnesota, to advance construction methods, technology, or materials, or, where  
2.21 necessary to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public, or to ~~improve the efficiency~~  
2.22 ~~or use of a building~~ mitigate the impact of climate change by increasing energy efficiency,  
2.23 improving resiliency, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions of new buildings and of  
2.24 existing buildings undergoing additions, alterations, and changes of use.

2.25 (e) Beginning in 2024, the commissioner shall act on the new model commercial energy  
2.26 code by adopting each new published edition of ASHRAE 90.1 or a more efficient standard.  
2.27 Each new adopted commercial energy code shall establish efficiency and performance  
2.28 standards that result in buildings and building systems that can be powered completely by  
2.29 carbon-neutral energy sources by 2036 and thereafter.