

S.F. No. 1891 – State-owned buildings solar energy systems and renewable sources provisions modifications – As amended by the A-1 delete-everything amendment

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Section 1 [Allotment and encumbrance] allows supplemental work by a consultant on a project funded a building appropriation to proceed before funds are encumbered.

Section 2 [Alternative energy sources] replaces a requirement for solar energy systems in state buildings with a requirement for renewable energy sources, to the extent required to meet Sustainable Building 3030 performance standards. This requirement applies to construction of new state buildings or major renovations of state buildings. Allows geothermal energy efficiency sources to be considered.

Section 3 [Energy generation from renewable sources] precludes nameplate capacity of all distributed generations serving state-owned buildings or facilities, including subscriptions to community solar gardens, from exceeding 120 percent of the average annual electric energy consumption of state-owned buildings or facilities being served.

Section 4 [Definitions] exempts certain projects from a requirement of a designer for the project. Exempted projects include demolition or decommissioning of state assets, hazardous materials abatement, repair and replacement of utility infrastructure, parking lots, parking structures, security upgrades, building systems replacement or repair and alterations to building interiors to accommodate the systems, and other asset preservation work not involving remodeling of occupied space.

Section 5 [Agencies must request designer] increases the threshold cost for a project, or for fees for planning a project, that trigger a requirement for a designer for construction or remodeling of a state-owned building. Under current law, an agency is required to request a designer for projects of a certain size. The Designer Selection Board selects a designer through a specified process, and the commissioner of administration negotiates a contract with that designer.

Section 6 [Higher education projects] increases the threshold cost for a project or for fees for planning a project that trigger a requirement for the University of Minnesota or Minnesota State Colleges and Universities to submit a request for recommendations for a designer for the project. Under current law, an agency is required to request a designer for projects of a certain size. The Designer Selection Board recommends designers to the Board of Regents or the Board of Trustees through a specified process.

Section 7 [Rate of inflation] automatically increases the thresholds that trigger the requirement for a designer based on an index of inflation.

Section 8 [Award and terms of loans] extends the maximum period, from five to seven years, for an agency to repay a productivity loan. Productivity loans are awarded by the Productivity Loan Committee for projects that will result in either reduced operating costs or increased revenues or both. The loans are made from funds appropriated to the commissioner of administration from a dedicated account.

Section 9 [Emergency acquisition] extends the exemption in emergencies from certain contracting practices to additional activities (design and construction) and to all publicly owned structures. Current law provides the exemption for repair, rehabilitation, and improvement of state-owned structures. Extends the exemption to the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities.

Section 10 [Definitions] is a conforming change related to the threshold increases for the requirement for a designer to be selected or recommended by the Designer Selection Board.

Section 11 [Repealer] repeals:

- **16B.323:** permission for construction and renovation projects, funded with bond proceeds, to include solar energy systems.
- **16B.326:** requirement that when practicable, geothermal and solar thermal heating and cooling systems be considered when designing, planning, or obtaining bids for replacement or installation of heating and cooling systems in buildings constructed with state funds.