

**Subject** Sustainable building guidelines modifications

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## Overview

This bill amends the sustainable building guidelines statute. The amendments are in response to the 2023 Sustainable Building Guidelines evaluation report by the Office of the Legislative Auditor and the 2023 Minnesota Sustainable Building Guidelines report by the Center of Sustainable Building Research at the University of Minnesota (CSBR).

The bill also amends a provision in the predesign statute to ensure compliance with the guidelines. A general fund appropriation to the commissioner of administration to develop, oversee, and administer the guidelines is also included.

All sections are effective July 1, 2024.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<p><b>Sustainable building guidelines.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Sustainable building guidelines.</b> Makes technical changes to conform to amendments in the bill. Removes obsolete language.</p> <p><b>Subd. 1a. Definitions.</b> Defines the following terms for the purposes of the section: “capital project,” “CSBR,” “guidelines,” “major renovation,” and “new building.”</p> <p><b>Subd. 2a. Guidelines; purpose.</b> States the primary objectives of the guidelines and articulates a number of factors that the guidelines must consider to meet the objectives.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Applicability.</b> States that the guidelines are mandatory for all new buildings and major renovations funded with state general obligation bonds and for similar projects funded by the general fund after May 1, 2024.</p>
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**Subd. 4. Commissioner of administration; guideline administration, oversight, and revisions.** Requires the commissioner of administration to review and amend the guidelines no less than once every five years to better meet measurable goals for the guidelines. The review must be conducted with the commissioner of commerce and in consultation with other stakeholders. The commissioner must use an open process, including the opportunity for public comment, when reviewing and amending the guidelines. Articulates other responsibilities of the commissioner of administration related to the guidelines.

**Subd. 5. CSBR; guideline administration and oversight.** Requires the commissioner of administration, in consultation with the commissioner of commerce, to contract with CSBR to implement the guidelines. States the responsibilities of CSBR regarding the guidelines, including training, project evaluations and tracking, and reporting, among other responsibilities.

Requires entities responsible for managing or designing projects subject to the guidelines to provide any compliance data requested by CSBR and the commissioner of administration.

**Subd. 6. Measurable goals.** Requires CSBR, in collaboration with the commissioners of administration and commerce, to develop measurable goals for the guidelines. The commissioner of administration provides final approval of the goals.

**Subd. 7. Procedures.** Requires the commissioner of administration to develop procedures for the administration of the guidelines. Specifies what the procedures must include.

**Subd. 8. Guidelines waivers and scope determination.** Requires the commissioner of administration, in consultation with the commissioner of commerce and other stakeholders, to develop a review and approval process for waivers and scope determinations to the guidelines. Permits partial or total waiver of the guidelines due to technological limitations or when the intended use of the project conflicts with the guidelines. The commissioner of administration must review and approve a waiver request. If the waiver request is for a project owned by the Department of Administration, the waiver request must be approved by the commissioner of commerce.

**Subd. 9. Report.** Requires the commissioner of administration to report to the legislature annually about the current status of projects subject to the guidelines, the effects of the guidelines on the measurable goals, and progress made toward the recommendations in the 2023 report by CSBR.

Section	Description
2	<p><b>Sustainable buildings; energy conservation.</b></p> <p>Amends a provision in the predesign statute to require that a recipient of a capital project appropriation ensure that the project complies with the applicable sustainable building guidelines. Authorizes the recipient to obtain information and technical assistance from the commissioner of administration on the guidelines.</p>
3	<p><b>Appropriation; Department of Administration.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$1,564,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the general fund to the commissioner of administration to develop, oversee, and administer the sustainable building guidelines, in consultation with the commissioner of commerce and CSBR. The appropriation includes money for the required contract between the commissioner of administration and CSBR to administer the guidelines. Creates a base of \$1,555,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$1,128,000 in fiscal year 2027 and thereafter.</p>



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