Overview

Imposes safety requirements for bleachers.

1 Bleacher safety.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines "place of public accommodation" to include publicly or privately owned facilities for public assembly. Defines "bleacher" to include temporary or permanent tiered seating facilities.

Subd. 2. Application. Requires all places of public accommodation to comply with the bill.

Subd. 3. Safety requirements. Specifies safety requirements for bleachers and bleacher open spaces that are over 30 inches above the grade or the floor:
   (1) there must be a maximum open space between floorboards, seats and guardrails of four inches, unless safety nets are installed, (2) there must be vertical perimeter guardrails as described in the bill, and (3) bleachers in use before the effective date must comply with the 1998 building code. Bleachers installed after July 1, 1999, must comply with this section and the building code in effect when they are installed.

Subd. 4. Enforcement. Makes a city responsible for enforcement of city code provisions on bleacher safety, if the city is not covered by the state building code because of action taken under section 16B.72 or 16B.73. Otherwise makes the county responsible in those areas not covered by the state building code.

   Cities that have not adopted the state building code may enforce bleacher safety by
   (1) joint powers agreements with a city that has the code or (2) a contract with a qualified and certified building official or state licensed design professional.

   Entities that own or operate places of public accommodation with bleachers must provide a compliance certificate to the commissioner of administration by the effective date of this section. Specifies who must prepare the certificate and what it must show.

Subd. 5. Penalties. Existing chapter 16B penalties apply. In addition, the commissioner must
forbid use of non-compliant bleachers.

**Subd. 6. Periodic inspections.** Requires footboard and guardrail inspections every five years and a structural inspection every ten years. Authorizes municipalities to establish additional reinspections under the building code.

2 **Referenda on state building code in nonmetropolitan counties.** Amends this section of statute to prohibit opting out of the bleacher safety requirements in the bill.

3 **State building code in municipalities under 2,500.** Amends this section of statute to prohibit these municipalities from opting out of the requirements for bleacher safety.

4 **Plan development; criteria.** Amends the statute on the amateur sports commission. Allows use of grant funds to upgrade current facilities to comply with bleacher safety requirements.

5 **Unsafe bleachers.** Prohibits manufacture, sale, distribution, or installation of bleachers in this state that do not comply with the bill. Provides a civil penalty of $500 per violation.

6 **Effective date.** Sections 1, 2, 3, and 5 take effect January 1, 2001, except the rulemaking provisions on manufacture, sale, installation, or distribution of new bleachers are effective July 1, 1999.