

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1951

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**Subject:** Energy efficiency in state buildings

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### Overview

H1951DE4 extends the authority of the Departments of Administration and Commerce to develop energy-efficient building guidelines to include major renovations to state buildings. (Such guidelines for construction of new state buildings have been in effect since 2003.)

The bill also appropriates money from bond proceeds for grants to municipalities to pay the incremental cost of pre-design, design and construction work to develop and implement the energy-efficient elements of construction or renovation.

#### Section

#### **1 [16.325] Sustainable Building Guidelines.**

**Subd. 1. Development of sustainable building guidelines.** Requires the Departments of Administration and Commerce to develop sustainable building guidelines for all major renovations of state buildings by February 1, 2009, the goal of which is to exceed the state energy code by 30 percent.

**Subd. 2. Lowest possible cost; energy conservation.** Specifies that the guidelines for major renovations must achieve the lowest possible lifetime energy costs, and that the definition of "major renovations" will be left to the guidelines.

**Subd. 3. Development of guidelines; applicability.** Specifies that the guidelines

**Section**

are mandatory for all major renovations receiving funding from the bond proceeds fund after February 1, 2009 .

**2 Green Bonds.**

**Subd. 1. Appropriation.** (a) Appropriates \$10,000,000 from the bond proceeds fund to the commissioner for grants to municipalities that meet or exceed the sustainability guidelines. The grants may pay a portion of the incremental predesign and design work to identify and estimate the cost of incorporating energy efficient elements into construction or renovation projects, and pay a portion of the incremental cost of constructing those elements. Construction grants may only cover construction or renovation costs that would not be recovered from energy savings within five years. Specifies the information that must be contained in a grant application.

**Subd. 2. Bond sale.** Instructs the commissioner of finance to sell bonds for the money appropriated in subdivision 1.