

**Subject** Building permit and inspection fees

**Authors** Stephenson and others

**Analyst** Anna Scholin

**Date** March 9, 2020

## Overview

Changes building permit and inspection fees for new residential construction from a valuation based fee to one based on the square footage of the building. Creates whistleblower protections for independent contractors who report municipal violations of chapter 462 (dealing with municipal planning and zoning).

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Adoption of code.</b> Requires the commissioner of labor and industry to adopt rules setting building permit and inspection fees for new residential construction based on the square footage of a building and not its valuation. Allows the fees to be tailored to the direct costs of providing permit review and inspection services in different geographic regions.
2	<b>Building permits.</b> Establishes building permit fees based on square footage for new residential construction (see section 1) and maintains permit fees based on the total valuation of the building for all other types of construction. Continues charging all construction the valuation-based surcharge under section 326B.148, which pays for the state's costs in administering the State Building Code.
3	<b>Fees.</b> Limits the building permit or inspection fees a municipality can charge for new residential construction to the fees set by the commissioner under section 1 above.
4	<b>[462.366] Disclosure of Information by Independent Contractors.</b> Creates whistleblower protections for independent contractors who in good faith publicly report a willful, reckless, suspected, or planned violation of chapter 462 (dealing with municipal planning and zoning) by a municipality. Allows independent

Section	Description
---------	-------------

---

	contractors injured by violation of this section to bring a civil action to recover damages, costs, and reasonable attorney fees, as well as equitable relief.
--	--



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn/hrd](http://www.house.mn/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 600 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155