

Subject Metropolitan Land Use Planning

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Overview

This bill would add legislative findings related to metropolitan comprehensive planning and land use as well as specify, retroactively, that certain actions authorizing increased residential density do not cause pollution, impairment, or destruction under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act (MERA).

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Development guide.
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Paragraph (a) establishes legislative findings for purposes of the Metropolitan Council's comprehensive development guide requirements, including that: (1) it is beneficial to combat global warming; (2) it is beneficial to protect undeveloped land from development; (3) it is beneficial to allow and incentivize more housing in urban and suburban areas near certain existing resources and infrastructure; and (4) the benefits of allowing and incentivizing greater residential density in developed urban and suburban areas increases with greater proximity to the urban core or transit network.

Paragraph (b) requires the comprehensive development guide to recognize and encompass environmental and public health needs of the metropolitan area.

Paragraph (d), effective retroactively from March 1, 2018, states that the adoption or amendment of a provision that authorizes increased residential density in a comprehensive plan, fiscal device, or official control that is approved by the Metropolitan Council or that is determined by a municipality to result in environmental and public health benefits does not constitute conduct that causes or is likely to cause pollution, impairment, or destruction under MERA.

2	Legislative findings and purpose.
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Adds to legislative findings used for purposes of coordinating local government land use planning in the metropolitan area, that there is a need for the adoption of coordinated plans, programs, and controls to rapidly mitigate and adapt to global

Section **Description**

warming and to preserve natural and undeveloped lands to sequester carbon and provide habitat, preserve agricultural lands, and increase residential density in areas where certain resources and infrastructure already exist.



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