

# House Research Act Summary

**CHAPTER:** 278

**SESSION:** 2008 Regular Session

**TOPIC:** Energy conservation in buildings

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## Overview

Chapter 278 requires the development of energy-efficiency performance standards for new and substantially reconstructed commercial, industrial and institutional buildings.

**1 [16.325] Sustainable building guidelines.**

**Subd. 4. Revisions.** Requires the commissioners of administration and commerce to review the guidelines for state buildings periodically based upon the performance standards developed under section 3 and incorporate the latter as soon as practicable.

**2 [216B.241] Subd. 1e. Applied research and development grants.** Directs the commissioner of commerce to assess and grant up to \$500,000 annually for the purpose of section 3.

**3 [216.241] Subd. 9. Building performance standards; sustainable building 2030.**

(a) States that the purpose of this subdivision is to establish cost-effective energy-efficiency performance standards for new and substantially reconstructed commercial, industrial and institutional buildings.

(b) Requires the commissioner to contract with the Center for Sustainable Building Research at the University of Minnesota to develop and implement energy-efficient performance standards for new and substantially reconstructed residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional buildings, to be known as Sustainable Building 2030.

**Section**

These two entities must also present a plan to the legislature by July 1, 2009, to train architects to incorporate the standards in building design, incorporate the standards in utility conservation improvement programs (CIP), and develop programs to monitor energy use in buildings that adopt the standards.

(c) The standards must measure energy use and corresponding greenhouse gas emissions per foot for different building types, and must be updated every three to five years. The standards should be designed to achieve the following carbon emissions per square foot reductions with respect to a 2003 baseline: 60 percent by 2010; 70 percent by 2020; and 90 percent by 2025. Any performance standard must be cost-effective, as reflected in a conclusive engineering analysis.

(d) The annual amount of the contract with the Center may be up to \$500,000, of which no more than \$150,000 may be spent on administration, coordination and oversight. The balance must be spent on contracts for technical projects that support the standards, including:

- RD&D of new energy-efficient technologies;
- analysis and evaluation of energy use in buildings;
- analysis of the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the guidelines; and
- development and delivery of training programs for architects, engineers and others in the construction industry.

(e) The commissioner shall require utilities to develop and implement CIP programs that result in energy savings consistent with the standards. These programs must include design assistance, modeling and financial assistance. Utilities providing CIP activities that results in a building meeting the standards may claim the energy savings as part of their 1.5 percent energy savings goal.

(f) The commissioner shall report to the legislature every three years, beginning January 15, 2010, on the cost-effectiveness and progress of implementing the standards.