HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 277   **DATE:**   March 6, 2007

    Version: First engrossment

    Authors: Clark and others

    Subject: Window screen safety

    Analyst: Jeanne LeFevre

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill establishes a safety standard for window screens on certain windows in residential dwellings and requires the adoption of the standard in the next revision of the State Building Code and the Uniform Fire Code.

Section

1   **Window screen safety.**

> **Subdivision 1.** Defines "safety screen."
>
> **Subd. 2.** A safety screen must be reasonably expected to withstand a force of 30 pounds or less and must be capable of being opened from the inside by someone with no special training or knowledge.
>
> **Subd. 3.** Safety screens required on all above-grade windows that can be opened: for new multi-family construction commenced on or after January 1, 2009; for multi-family remodeling financed by the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency commencing on or after January 1, 2009; and for single family new construction commenced on or after January 1, 2010.
>
> **Subd. 4.** Requirements of this bill must be included in the next revision of the State Building Code.
>
> **Subd. 5.** Requirements of this bill must be included in the next revision of the Uniform Fire Code.

<u>Section</u>

> **Subd. 6.** Requirements of this bill may be enforced statewide by the commissioner of labor and industry and by the municipality in which the dwelling is located. For purposes of enforcing these requirements, a municipality and the commissioner have the powers that apply to a state building code violation even if the State Building Code does not apply in the municipality.
>
> **Effective date.** Effective the day following final enactment.