

Subject Solar Energy in Public Buildings

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Overview

House File 4404 establishes a program in the Department of Commerce to award grants to local units of government for the purchase and installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings.

Summary

Section Description

- 1 **[216C.377] Solar grant program; public buildings.**
- Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines terms, including “public building” and “local unit of government.”
- Subd. 2. Establishment; purpose.** Establishes the solar on public buildings grant program in the Department of Commerce.
- Subd. 3. Establishment of account.** Establishes the solar on public buildings grant program account to be managed by the commissioner of commerce.
- Subd. 4. Expenditures.** Provides that money in the account may be spent only for grants and administrative costs.
- Subd. 5. Eligible system.** Describes the characteristics of solar energy generating systems eligible for grants, including a capacity of the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the building’s average annual electricity consumption.
- Subd. 6. Application process.** Describes the content of a grant application.
- Subd. 7. Energy conservation review.** Authorizes the commissioner to request information on energy conservation measures implemented at the public building at which the installation is to occur, and to make recommendations and provide technical assistance to the local unit of government regarding available cost-effective conservation programs.

Section	Description
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Subd. 8. Technical assistance. Authorizes the commissioner to provide technical assistance to applicants.

Subd. 9. Grant payments. Directs that grants are to pay for solar energy generating system purchase and installation costs.

Subd. 10. Installation. Requires contractors and subcontractors installing a solar energy generating system awarded a grant to be subject to the state's prevailing wage statute for the project.

Subd. 11. Reporting. Requires annual reports from the commissioner to the legislature on grants and amounts awarded.

2 **Appropriations.**

Appropriates funds from the general fund and the renewable development account in fiscal year 2023 for the grant program.



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