

Alexis C. Stangl, Director

Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave. W. Suite 3300
ST. PAUL, MN 55155-1800
(651) 296-4791
www.senate.mn/scrfa

S.F. No. 1404 – Program Establishment to Award Grants for the Installation of Solar Energy Generating Systems on Public Buildings (As Amended by the A-4 Amendment)

Author: Senator Lindsey Port

Prepared by: Ben Stanley, Senate Counsel (651/296-4793)

Date: March 14, 2023

Section 1 [Solar Grant Program; Public Buildings]

Subd. 1 [Definitions] defines various terms used in the bill.

Subd. 2 [Establishment] establishes a solar on public buildings grant program in the Department of Commerce to provide grants to stimulate the installation of solar energy generating systems on public buildings.

Subd. 3 [Account] establishes a solar on public buildings grant program account in the special revenue fund and requires money received by the commissioner for the grant program to be deposited in the account.

Subd. 4 [Appropriation] appropriates money in the account to the commissioner to provide grants under the program and to pay the department's reasonable costs of administering the program.

Subd. 5 [Eligible System] provides that a local government is eligible for a grant under this section if the solar generating system:

- Is installed on or adjacent to a public building that consumes the electricity generated by the solar generating system; and
- Has a capacity that does not exceed the lesser of 40 kilowatts or 120 percent of the average annual electricity consumption of the public building.

Subd. 6 [Application Process] requires the commissioner of commerce to issue an RFP to utilities, local units of government, and developers who may wish to apply for a grant on behalf of a public building.

Subd. 7 [Energy Conservation Review] authorizes the commissioner to request a local government that has been awarded a grant under the program to provide information regarding energy conservation measures implemented at the public building at which the solar energy system is to be installed.

Subd. 8 [Technical Assistance] requires the commissioner to provide technical assistance to local units of government to develop and execute projects under the grant program.

Subd. 9 [Grant Payments] requires a grant awarded under the program to be sufficient to pay necessary and reasonable costs associated with the purchase and installation of a solar energy generating system.

Subd. 10 [Application Deadline] prohibits submission of an application for a grant under this section after a to be determined date.

Subd. 11 [Contractor Conditions] requires a contractor or subcontractor performing work on a project paid for with a grant under the program to pay employees working on the project no less than the prevailing wage rate.

Subd. 12 [Reporting] requires the commissioner of commerce to annually report on the grant program to the appropriate legislative committees through 2027.

Section 2 [Appropriations] appropriates to be determined amounts from the general fund and from the renewable development account to the commissioner of commerce for grants under the program.