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S.F. No. 4183 - 1st Engrossment – Environmental and public health considerations in comprehensive development guide requirement provision

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Date: March 5, 2024

Section 1 (473.145) modifies the Metropolitan Council section of law by adding legislative findings related to the environment under new paragraph (a). Paragraph (b) adds that the Metropolitan Council development guide include policy statements and goals related to the sustainable development of the metropolitan area in a manner that benefits the environment and public health as described under paragraph (a). New paragraph (d) provides that any adoption or amendment that authorizes increased residential density in a comprehensive plan, fiscal device, or official control that is approved by the Metropolitan Council or determined by a municipality to result in environmental and public health benefits does not constitute conduct that is likely to cause pollution, impairment, or destruction under the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act.

This section is effective the day following final enactment, but paragraph (d) is effective retroactive to March 1, 2018.

Section 2 (473.851) modifies the legislative findings and purpose related to metropolitan land use and planning, which provides that urbanization and development transcend local governments, and as a result, there is a need for coordinated plans by local governments. The new language in this section states that the need to adopt coordinated plans to protect the health and safety of metropolitan residents includes protections to rapidly mitigate and adapt to global warming, preserve natural and undeveloped lands, preserve agriculture, and increase density in areas where infrastructure already exists.

This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Section 3 is the application clause specifying that the provisions in this bill apply in Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington counties.