

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 1581

(SENATE AUTHORS: PAPPAS and Koran)

DATE
02/20/2025

D-PG
435 Introduction and first reading
Referred to State and Local Government

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to state government; applying nonstate funding for implementation of the

1.3 Capitol Mall Design Framework; appropriating money to improve livability in the

1.4 Capitol Area and to support grantmaking for community vitality grants; repealing

1.5 Laws 2023, chapter 53, article 17, section 2.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. **CAPITOL MALL DESIGN FRAMEWORK UPDATE; MATCHING**

1.8 **FUNDS.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms have

1.10 the meanings given.

1.11 (b) "Capitol Mall Design Framework update" means the Capitol Mall Design Framework

1.12 update required by Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 2, section 124.

1.13 (c) "Nonstate funds" means money secured from private sources, including individuals

1.14 and businesses, toward the Capitol Mall Design Framework update.

1.15 Subd. 2. **Capitol Mall Design Framework; use of nonstate funds.** (a) Nonstate funds

1.16 must be used to predesign, design, construct, furnish, and equip improvements and

1.17 betterments of a capital nature consistent with the Capitol Mall Design Framework update.

1.18 (b) The commissioner of administration shall coordinate the expenditure of nonstate

1.19 funds toward the Capitol Mall Design Framework update improvements. Any unspent

1.20 nonstate funds may be used by the commissioner of administration for improvements and

1.21 betterments of a capital nature consistent with the Capitol Mall Design Framework update.

2.1 Sec. 2. **CAPITOL MALL DESIGN FRAMEWORK IMPLEMENTATION.**

2.2 Notwithstanding Laws 2023, chapter 62, article 1, section 11, subdivision 2, the
2.3 appropriation to implement the updated Capitol Mall Design Framework is available until
2.4 June 30, 2025.

2.5 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; CAPITOL AREA IMPROVEMENTS.**

2.6 (a) \$4,500,000 in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated to the commissioner of administration
2.7 for a grant to the city of St. Paul Department of Planning and Economic Development to
2.8 improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area.
2.9 The city of St. Paul must consult with the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
2.10 prior to the expenditure of these funds.

2.11 (b) Of the amount appropriated under paragraph (a), \$500,000 is for a grant to the Capitol
2.12 Area Architectural and Planning Board to improve the livability, economic health, and
2.13 safety of communities within the Capitol Area. The funds must be used for technical
2.14 assistance, supporting people and businesses living and working in the Capitol Area as they
2.15 work through the community vitality grant process. Technical assistance may include staff
2.16 time to help Capitol Area businesses, artists, and residents apply for grants and navigate
2.17 any permits needed for adding arts, events, or facades. Technical assistance providers shall
2.18 provide general consultation on various management topics to community vitality grant
2.19 grantees.

2.20 (c) On or before October 1, 2026, the city of St. Paul and the Capitol Area Architectural
2.21 and Planning Board must jointly report to the speaker of the house, the majority leader of
2.22 the senate, the house minority leader, and the senate minority leader on the expenditure of
2.23 the funds appropriated under this section.

2.24 Sec. 4. **CANCELLATION.**

2.25 The unencumbered balance of the Capitol Area community vitality account established
2.26 in Laws 2023, chapter 53, article 17, section 2, is canceled to the general fund.

2.27 Sec. 5. **REPEALER.**

2.28 Laws 2023, chapter 53, article 17, section 2, is repealed.

Laws 2023, chapter 53, article 17, section 2

Sec. 2. **CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY VITALITY ACCOUNT.**

Subdivision 1. **Account established; appropriation.** (a) A Capitol Area community vitality account is established in the special revenue fund. Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of administration to improve the livability, economic health, and safety of communities within the Capitol Area, provided that no funds may be expended until a detailed program and oversight plan to govern their use, in accordance with the spending recommendations of the Capitol Area Community Vitality Task Force as approved by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, has been further approved by law.

(b) As used in this section, "Capitol Area" includes that part of the city of St. Paul within the boundaries described in Minnesota Statutes, section 15B.02.

Subd. 2. **Appropriation.** \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2024 is transferred from the general fund to the Capitol Area community vitality account.