
CHAPTER 333—H.F.No.41

[Coded in Part]

An act relating to public safety; requiring fire detection devices in certain residential housing; directing the commissioner of administration to amend the state building code; amending Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 16.85, Subdivision 1; and Chapter 299F, by adding a section.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 16.85, Subdivision 1, is amended to read:

16.85 FIRE DETECTION DEVICES; INSTALLATION; GENERAL POWERS OF COMMISSIONER, STATE BUILDING CODE. Subdivision 1. Subject to the provisions of sections 16.83 to 16.867, the commissioner shall by rule establish a code of standards for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, and repair of state-owned buildings, governing matters of structural materials, design and construction, fire protection, health, sanitation, and safety. The commissioner may amend the code from time to time as provided in sections 16.83 to 16.867. The code and any amendment thereof shall conform insofar as practicable to model building codes generally accepted and in use throughout the United States. In the preparation of the code consideration shall be given to the existing state-wide specialty codes presently in use in the state of Minnesota. Such model codes with modifications as may be deemed necessary and state-wide specialty codes may be adopted by reference. The code so promulgated and any amendments thereof shall be based on the application of scientific principles, approved tests, and professional judgment; and to the extent that it is practical so to do the code shall be promulgated in terms of desired results instead of the means of achieving such results, avoiding wherever possible the incorporation of specifications of particular methods or materials. To that end the code shall encourage the use of new methods and new materials.

The code shall require that any parking ramp or other parking facility constructed in accordance with the code include an appropriate number of spaces suitable for the parking of motor vehicles having a capacity of seven to 16 persons and which are principally used to provide prearranged commuter transportation of employees to or from their place of employment or to or from a transit stop authorized by a local transit authority.

The code shall require that all dwellings, lodging houses, apartment houses, and hotels as defined in section 2 comply with the provisions of section 2.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Chapter 299F, is amended by adding a section to read:

[299F.362] INSTALLATION OF SMOKE DETECTORS IN DWELLINGS,

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LODGING HOUSES, APARTMENT HOUSES, AND HOTELS. Subdivision 1. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

(a) "Apartment house" is any building, or portion thereof, which is designed, built, rented, leased, let, or hired out to be occupied, or which is occupied as the home or residence of three or more families living independently of each other and doing their own cooking in the building, and shall include buildings containing three or more flats or apartments.

(b) "Dwelling" is any building constructed, remodeled, rented, or offered for rent after January 1, 1980, or any portion thereof which is not an apartment house, lodging house or a hotel and which contains one or two "dwelling units" which are, or are intended or designed to be, occupied for living purposes.

(c) "Dwelling unit" is a single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation, or a single unit used by one or more persons for sleeping and sanitation pursuant to a work practice or labor agreement.

(d) "Hotel" is any building or portion thereof containing six or more guest rooms intended or designed to be used, or which are used, rented or hired out to be occupied, or which are occupied for sleeping purposes by guests.

(e) "Lodging house" is any building or portion thereof, containing not more than five guest rooms which are used or are intended to be used for sleeping purposes by guests and where rent is paid in money, goods, labor or otherwise.

Subd. 2. RULES, SMOKE DETECTOR LOCATION. The commissioner of public safety shall promulgate rules concerning the placement of smoke detectors in dwellings, apartment houses, hotels, and lodging houses. The rules shall take into account designs of the guest rooms or dwelling units.

Subd. 3. FIRE WARNING SYSTEMS; DWELLINGS. Every dwelling unit within a dwelling shall be provided with a smoke detector meeting the requirements of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or approved by the International Conference of Building Officials. The detector shall be mounted in accordance with the rules regarding smoke detector location promulgated under the provisions of subdivision 2. When actuated, the detector shall provide an alarm in the dwelling unit.

Subd. 4. FIRE WARNING SYSTEMS; APARTMENT HOUSES, LODGING HOUSES, AND HOTELS. Every dwelling unit within an apartment house and every guest room in a lodging house or hotel used for sleeping purposes shall be provided with a smoke detector conforming to the requirements of Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or approved by the International Conference of Building Officials. In dwelling units, detectors shall be mounted in accordance with the rules regarding smoke detector location promulgated under the provisions of subdivision 2. When actuated, the detector shall provide an alarm in the dwelling unit or guest room.

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Subd. 5. MAINTENANCE RESPONSIBILITIES. For all occupancies covered by this section where the occupant is not the owner of the dwelling unit or the guest room, the owner is responsible for maintenance of the smoke detectors.

Subd. 6. PENALTY. Any person who violates any provision of this section shall be subject to the same penalty incurred for violation of the fire safety code, as specified in section 299F.39, subdivision 4.

Subd. 7. This section prohibits a local unit of government from adopting standards different from those provided in this section, except that, as to new construction, a local unit of government may require that smoke detectors be attached to a centralized electrical power source.

Subd. 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective January 1, 1980, except for subdivision 2 which is effective August 1, 1977.

Approved May 27, 1977.

CHAPTER 334—H.F.No.231

An act relating to transportation; particular uses of highway right of way; permitting advertising on bus shelters; amending Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 160.27, Subdivision 2.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1976, Section 160.27, Subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. ROADS AND HIGHWAYS; BENCHES AND SHELTERS FOR PERSONS WAITING FOR STREET CARS AND BUSES. Benches and shelters for the convenience and comfort of persons waiting for street cars or buses may be placed and maintained within the limits of any street or highway, including streets and highways within cities, when a license or permit therefor is first obtained from the road authority. The owners may place advertising on the benches and shelters if authorized by the license or permit, provided that advertising on shelters shall be limited to one-third of the vertical surface of the shelter. The benches shall not be placed or maintained on the portion of the highway or street prepared and maintained for vehicle traffic.

Sec. 2. This act is effective the day following its final enactment.

Approved May 27, 1977.

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