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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2427

03/02/2023 Authored by Klevorn, Hortman, Hussein and Pérez-Vega
03/23/2023 The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Finance and Policy
Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Economic Development Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; requiring the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning
1.3 Board to update the Capitol Mall Design Framework; establishing the Capitol Area
1.4 Community Vitality Task Force and account; specifying certain elements that must
1.5 be included in the updated framework; requiring a report; appropriating money.

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

1.7 Section 1. FORD BUILDING SITE REDEVELOPMENT; MIXED-USE
1.8 DEVELOPMENT REQUIRED.

1.9 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, the commissioner of administration may not
1.10 prepare or approve building construction plans for redevelopment of the Ford Building or
1.11 the Ford Building property site unless the plans are for mixed-use development and identify
1.12 ground-level space for locally-owned businesses.

1.13 Sec. 2. CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY VITALITY TASK FORCE;
1.14 APPROPRIATION.

1.15 Subdivision 1. Task force established; membership. (a) A Capitol Area Community
1.16 Vitality Task Force is established. The task force consists of the following members:

1.17 (1) the executive secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board;

1.18 (2) one member of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board, appointed by the
1.19 board;

1.20 (3) two members of the house of representatives appointed by the speaker of the house,
1.21 one of whom must be a member of the majority caucus of the house and one of whom must
1.22 be a member of the minority caucus of the house;

2.1 (4) two members of the senate appointed by the majority leader of the senate, one of
2.2 whom must be a member of the majority caucus of the senate and one of whom must be a
2.3 member of the minority caucus of the senate;

2.4 (5) four members who are residents, businesspeople, or members of local organizations
2.5 in the Capitol Area, appointed by the mayor of St. Paul; and

2.6 (6) one member of the public appointed by the governor.

2.7 (b) The task force must elect a chair and other officers from among its members.

2.8 Appointments to the task force must be made no later than July 15, 2023. The executive
2.9 secretary of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board must convene the first
2.10 meeting of the task force no later than August 15, 2023.

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

2.13 Subd. 2. **Terms; compensation.** The terms and compensation of members of the task
2.14 force are governed by Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 6.

2.15 Subd. 3. **Administrative support.** The Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
2.16 must provide administrative support to assist the task force in its work.

2.17 Subd. 4. **Duties; report.** The task force must consider and develop recommendations
2.18 for the administration, program plan, and oversight of the Capitol Area community vitality
2.19 account established by this act. The task force must submit its recommendations to the
2.20 Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board for approval. A report including the approved
2.21 recommendations must be submitted by the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board
2.22 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the committees of the legislature with
2.23 jurisdiction over the board no later than February 1, 2024.

2.24 Subd. 5. **Expiration.** Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision
2.25 6, the task force expires upon submission of the report required by subdivision 4.

2.26 Subd. 6. **Appropriation.** \$150,000 in fiscal year 2024 is appropriated from the general
2.27 fund to the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board to support the work of the task
2.28 force, including but not limited to payment of fees and other expenses necessary to retain
2.29 appropriate professional consultants, conduct public meetings, and facilitate other activities
2.30 as requested by the task force.

3.1 **Sec. 3. CAPITOL AREA COMMUNITY VITALITY ACCOUNT.**

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

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

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

3.14 **Sec. 4. CAPITOL CAMPUS DESIGN FRAMEWORK; APPROPRIATIONS.**

3.15 Subdivision 1. **Design framework updates; appropriation.** (a) \$1,000,000 in fiscal
3.16 year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the Capitol Area Architectural and
3.17 Planning Board to update the Capitol Mall Design Framework and for initial implementation
3.18 of the framework. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until December 31, 2024.
3.19 The updated design framework must include:

3.20 (1) plans to integrate green space campus-wide, including but not limited to the addition
3.21 of green space on the following sites at the approximate sizes indicated:

3.22 (i) the southwest corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of
3.23 20,700 square feet;

3.24 (ii) the northeast corner of Rice Street and University Avenue, with a minimum size of
3.25 32,000 square feet; and

3.26 (iii) the north side of the State Capitol building adjacent to University Avenue;

3.27 (2) plans for visual markers and welcome information for the Capitol campus at one or
3.28 more corners of Rice Street and University Avenue, anchoring a pathway to the State Capitol
3.29 building and Capitol Mall that features interpretive markers honoring the importance and
3.30 stature of the Capitol campus as both a historic site and as a modern, active public gathering
3.31 space for all Minnesotans; and

4.1 (3) plans to plant trees throughout the Capitol campus, prioritizing the creation of a
4.2 mature tree canopy to provide an area of shade for users of the Capitol Mall between or
4.3 adjacent to the State Capitol building and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard.

4.4 (b) The board must contract with one or more professional design consultants with
4.5 expertise on horticulture, landscape architecture, civic space design, infrastructure assessment,
4.6 and operations and maintenance planning to develop the framework updates. The board
4.7 must additionally consult with the commissioners of administration and public safety and
4.8 the senate majority leader and the speaker of the house or their designees before any proposed
4.9 framework update is approved. The board must approve the updated design framework no
4.10 later than March 1, 2024.

4.11 Subd. 2. **Design framework implementation; appropriation.** \$5,000,000 in fiscal year
4.12 2024 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of administration to
4.13 implement the updated design framework, prioritizing the framework plans identified in
4.14 subdivision 1, clauses (1) to (3). This is a onetime appropriation and is available until
4.15 December 31, 2024.

4.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.