

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1234

02/20/2025 Authored by Scott, Hollins, Mekeland, Feist, Sexton and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy
03/18/2026 Adoption of Report: Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy
03/23/2026 By motion, recalled and re-referred to the Committee on State Government Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state government; requiring payment transparency in public contracts;
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 15.72, subdivision 2, by adding a
1.4 subdivision; 337.10, subdivision 4.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 15.72, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 1a. Payment information requests. (a) Upon written request from a contractor
1.9 or subcontractor of any tier participating in the public improvement project, a public
1.10 contracting agency must provide information regarding any progress payment, retainage
1.11 payment, final payment, or other payment made by the contracting agency.

1.12 (b) The information provided under paragraph (a) must include:

1.13 (1) the amount of the payment;

1.14 (2) the date the payment was made or approved; and

1.15 (3) a copy of the payment application submitted by the contractor.

1.16 For highway construction contracts, a copy of the estimate or voucher generated by the
1.17 public contracting agency meets this requirement.

1.18 (c) The public contracting agency must provide the requested information within seven
1.19 calendar days of receipt of the request.

1.20 (d) The public contracting agency must post on its public website for solicitations or
1.21 bids or its homepage, and otherwise make available to contractors and subcontractors,

2.1 contact information for payment information requests on public improvement projects. If
2.2 a public contracting agency has an automated internet-based system to provide this
2.3 information, the agency may request a requestor to use that system.

2.4 (e) No cost or fees may be charged to the contractor or subcontractor providing
2.5 information required under this section.

2.6 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 15.72, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.7 Subd. 2. **Retainage.** (a) A public contracting agency may reserve as retainage from any
2.8 progress payment on a public contract for a public improvement an amount not to exceed
2.9 five percent of the payment. A public contracting agency may reduce the amount of the
2.10 retainage and may eliminate retainage on any monthly contract payment if, in the agency's
2.11 opinion, the work is progressing satisfactorily.

2.12 (b) The public contracting agency must release all retainage no later than 60 days after
2.13 substantial completion, subject to the terms of this subdivision. If the public contracting
2.14 agency reduces the amount of retainage, the contractor must reduce retainage for any
2.15 subcontractors at the same rate.

2.16 (c) A contractor on a public contract for a public improvement must pay all remaining
2.17 retainage to its subcontractors no later than ten days after receiving payment of retainage
2.18 from the public contracting agency, unless there is a dispute about the work under a
2.19 subcontract. If there is a dispute about the work under a subcontract, the contractor must
2.20 pay out retainage to any subcontractor whose work is not involved in the dispute, and must
2.21 provide a written statement detailing the amount and reason for the withholding to the
2.22 affected subcontractor.

2.23 (d) Upon written request of a subcontractor, the public contracting agency shall notify
2.24 the subcontractor of a progress payment, retainage payment, or final payment made to the
2.25 contractor.

2.26 (e) After substantial completion, a public contracting agency may withhold no more
2.27 than:

2.28 (1) 250 percent of the cost to correct or complete work known at the time of substantial
2.29 completion; and

2.30 (2) one percent of the value of the contract or \$500, whichever is greater, pending
2.31 completion and submission of all final paperwork by the contractor or subcontractor. For
2.32 purposes of this subdivision, "final paperwork" means documents required to fulfill
2.33 contractual obligations, including, but not limited to, operation manuals, payroll documents

3.1 for projects subject to prevailing wage requirements, and the withholding exemption
3.2 certificate required by section 270C.66.

3.3 If the public contracting agency withholds payment under this paragraph, the public
3.4 contracting agency must promptly provide a written statement detailing the amount and
3.5 basis of withholding to the contractor. The public contracting agency and contractor must
3.6 provide a copy of this statement to any subcontractor that requests it. Any amounts withheld
3.7 under clause (1) must be paid within 60 days after completion of the work. Any amounts
3.8 withheld under clause (2) must be paid within 60 days after submission of all final paperwork.

3.9 (f) As used in this subdivision, "substantial completion" shall be determined as provided
3.10 in section 541.051, subdivision 1, paragraph (a). For construction, reconstruction, or
3.11 improvement of streets and highways, including bridges, substantial completion means the
3.12 date when construction-related traffic devices and ongoing inspections are no longer required.

3.13 (g) Withholding retainage for warranty work is prohibited. This provision does not waive
3.14 any rights for warranty claims.

3.15 (h) For a project funded with federal or state aid, the public contracting agency is not
3.16 required to pay that portion of the contract funded by federal or state aid until the federal
3.17 or state aid payments have been received.

3.18 (i) Nothing in this section requires payment for a portion of a contract that is not complete
3.19 or for which an invoice has not been submitted.

3.20 (j) When an invoice is required, prohibiting or delaying submittal of the invoice is
3.21 contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable. A contract provision waiving the
3.22 right to submit an invoice is void and unenforceable.

3.23 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 337.10, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

3.24 Subd. 4. **Progress payments and retainages.** (a) Unless the building and construction
3.25 contract provides otherwise, the owner or other persons making payments under the contract
3.26 must make progress payments monthly as the work progresses. Payments shall be based
3.27 upon estimates of work completed as approved by the owner or the owner's agent. A progress
3.28 payment shall not be considered acceptance or approval of any work or waiver of any defects
3.29 therein.

3.30 (b) Retainage on a building and construction contract may not exceed five percent. An
3.31 owner or owner's agent may reduce the amount of retainage and may eliminate retainage
3.32 on any monthly contract payment if, in the owner's opinion, the work is progressing
3.33 satisfactorily. If the owner reduces the amount of retainage, the contractor must reduce

4.1 retainage for any subcontractors at the same rate. Nothing in this subdivision is intended to
4.2 require that retainage be withheld in any building or construction contract.

4.3 (c) The owner or the owner's agent must release all retainage no later than 60 days after
4.4 substantial completion subject to the terms of this subdivision. For purposes of this
4.5 subdivision, "substantial completion" shall be determined as provided in section 541.051,
4.6 subdivision 1, paragraph (a).

4.7 (d) A contractor must pay all remaining retainage to its subcontractors no later than ten
4.8 days after receiving payment of retainage, unless there is a dispute about the work under a
4.9 subcontract, in which case the contractor must pay out retainage to any party whose work
4.10 is not involved in the dispute. If there is a dispute about the work under a subcontract, the
4.11 contractor must pay out retainage to any subcontractor whose work is not involved in the
4.12 dispute, and must provide a written statement detailing the amount and reason for the
4.13 withholding to the affected subcontractor.

4.14 (e) After substantial completion, an owner or owner's agent may withhold no more than:

4.15 (1) 250 percent of the cost to correct or complete work known at the time of substantial
4.16 completion; and

4.17 (2) one percent of the value of the contract or \$500, whichever is greater, pending
4.18 completion and submission of all final paperwork by the contractor or subcontractor. For
4.19 purposes of this subdivision, "final paperwork" means documents required to fulfill
4.20 contractual obligations, including, but not limited to, operation manuals, payroll documents
4.21 for projects subject to prevailing wage requirements, and the withholding exemption
4.22 certificate required by section 270C.66.

4.23 If the owner or the owner's agent withholds payment under this paragraph, the owner or the
4.24 owner's agent must promptly provide a written statement detailing the amount and basis of
4.25 withholding to the contractor. The owner or the owner's agent and the contractor must
4.26 provide a copy of this statement to any subcontractor that requests it. Any amounts withheld
4.27 under clause (1) must be paid within 60 days after completion of the work. Any amounts
4.28 withheld under clause (2) must be paid within 60 days after submission of all final paperwork.

4.29 (f) Withholding retainage for warranty work is prohibited. This provision does not waive
4.30 any rights for warranty claims.

4.31 (g) This subdivision does not apply to a public agency as defined in section 15.71,
4.32 subdivision 3.

5.1 (h) This subdivision does not apply to contracts for professional services as defined in
5.2 sections 326.02 to 326.15.

5.3 (i) Nothing in this section requires payment for a portion of a contract that is not complete
5.4 or for which an invoice has not been submitted.

5.5 (j) When an invoice is required, prohibiting or delaying submittal of the invoice is
5.6 contrary to public policy and is void and unenforceable. A contract provision waiving the
5.7 right to submit an invoice is void and unenforceable.