

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 898

(SENATE AUTHORS: SCHMIT, Dibble, Senjem, Pederson, J. and Jensen)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/16/2015	313	Introduction and first reading Referred to Transportation and Public Safety
03/12/2015		Comm report: To pass as amended Second reading

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A bill for an act

relating to highways; providing for use of certain national standards in design and construction of state-aid streets; amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 162.02, by adding a subdivision; 162.09, by adding a subdivision; 174.75, subdivision 5.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 162.02, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 1a. Use of national design standards for county state-aid highways. (a)

A local road authority may, in its construction and reconstruction of county state-aid highways, utilize design standards that are included in:

(1) rules adopted by the commissioner as minimum state-aid standards;

(2) the 2011 edition of A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, as may be superseded by a later edition adopted by the Federal Highway Administration; or

(3) for projects in urban areas, the (i) most recent edition of Designing Walkable Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach, from the Institute of Transportation Engineers; or (ii) Urban Street Design Guide, from the National Association of City Transportation Officials.

(b) Use by a local road authority of standards referenced in this subdivision does not require a variance and must not affect the apportionment of state aid to counties.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 162.09, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

2.1 Subd. 1a. **Use of national design standards for municipal state-aid streets.** (a)

2.2 A local road authority may, in its construction and reconstruction of municipal state-aid
2.3 streets, utilize design standards that are included in:

2.4 (1) rules adopted by the commissioner as minimum state-aid standards;

2.5 (2) the 2011 edition of A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets,
2.6 from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, as may be
2.7 superseded by a later edition adopted by the Federal Highway Administration; or

2.8 (3) for projects in urban areas, the (i) most recent edition of Designing Walkable
2.9 Urban Thoroughfares: A Context Sensitive Approach, from the Institute of Transportation
2.10 Engineers; or (ii) Urban Street Design Guide, from the National Association of City
2.11 Transportation Officials.

2.12 (b) Use by a local road authority of standards referenced in this subdivision does not
2.13 require a variance and must not affect the apportionment of state aid to cities.

2.14 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 174.75, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

2.15 Subd. 5. **Variances from engineering standards.** ~~(a) When evaluating a request~~
2.16 ~~for a variance from the engineering standards for state-aid projects under chapter 162 in~~
2.17 ~~which the variance request is related to complete streets, the commissioner shall consider~~
2.18 ~~the latest edition of:~~

2.19 ~~(1) A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets, from the American~~
2.20 ~~Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials; and~~

2.21 ~~(2) for projects in urban areas, the Context Sensitive Solutions in Designing Major~~
2.22 ~~Urban Thoroughfares for Walkable Communities, from the Institute of Transportation~~
2.23 ~~Engineers.~~

2.24 ~~(b) If the commissioner denies a variance request related to complete streets, the~~
2.25 ~~commissioner shall provide written reasons for the denial to the political subdivision~~
2.26 ~~that submitted the request.~~