

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-SECOND SESSION**

**S.F. No. 1556**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN, Chamberlain and Abeler)

DATE  
03/01/2021

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Introduction and first reading

Referred to State Government Finance and Policy and Elections

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to government; requiring permit applications for large events on public

1.3 property to include a written sensory-friendly accommodations plan; amending

1.4 Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 37.16; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota

1.5 Statutes, chapters 16B; 85; 471.

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

1.7 Section 1. **[16B.2406] SENSORY-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS; RALLIES.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "sensory friendly" means

1.9 methods designed for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and sensory sensitivities.

1.10 Subd. 2. **Permit; written accommodations plan.** A permit application submitted under

1.11 Minnesota Rules, part 1235.0400, for a public rally with anticipated attendance of over

1.12 1,000 people must include a written accommodations plan that meets the criteria of

1.13 subdivision 3. The accommodations plan must be submitted in the form, manner, and time

1.14 prescribed by the commissioner.

1.15 Subd. 3. **Accommodations plan requirements.** (a) The written accommodations plan

1.16 must include at least one of the following:

1.17 (1) a designated sensory-friendly area at the rally;

1.18 (2) a rally area design plan that includes sensory-friendly elements;

1.19 (3) the distribution of mobile tool kits with items that support sensory needs; or

1.20 (4) a rally schedule with designated sensory-friendly time periods.

(b) The written accommodations plan must include a description of how information about on-site accommodations requests will be communicated to rally attendees prior to and during the rally.

(c) The written accommodations plan must include a description of how rally staff will be trained to process an on-site sensory-friendly accommodations request.

**Subd. 4. Model accommodations plan policy.** The commissioner, in consultation with the commissioner of human rights and the League of Minnesota Cities, shall develop and maintain a model sensory-friendly accommodations plan policy and shall post the policy on the Department of Administration's website.

**Subd. 5. Accommodations plan noncompliance.** Noncompliance with the written accommodations plan policy submitted under subdivision 2 results in a fine of \$..... to the permit applicant, and the permit applicant is ineligible for future permits under Minnesota Rules, part 1235.0400. All fines collected under this subdivision shall be deposited in the general fund.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2022, and applies to rally permit applications received on or after that date.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 37.16, is amended to read:

**37.16 RULES; VIOLATION.**

**Subdivision 1. Bylaws.** The society may make all bylaws, ordinances, and rules consistent with law which it considers necessary or proper for the government of the fairgrounds and all fairs to be held on them, and for the protection, health, safety, and comfort of the public on the fairgrounds. The bylaws, ordinances, and rules are effective when filed with the secretary of the society. The violation of a bylaw, rule, or ordinance of the society is a misdemeanor.

**Subd. 2. Model accommodations plan policy.** On or before July 1, 2022, the society must adopt the model accommodations plan policy under section 16B.2406, subdivision 4, as a part of its bylaws, ordinances, or rules.

**Subd. 3. Accommodations plan violation.** Notwithstanding subdivision 1, a violation of the model accommodations plan policy under subdivision 2 results in a fine of \$....., in addition to any penalty for violating a society rule under section 37.17. All fines collected under this subdivision shall be deposited in the general fund.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2022, and applies to accommodations plan policy violations committed on or after that date.

Sec. 3. **[85.0551] SENSORY-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS PLAN.**

Subdivision 1. **Model accommodations plan.** The commissioner of natural resources must require a sponsor or permittee under Minnesota Rules, part 6100.0550, to comply with the model accommodations plan policy under section 16B.2406, subdivision 4, when anticipated attendance at a special event is over 1,000 people.

Subd. 2. **Accommodations plan noncompliance.** Noncompliance with the model accommodations plan policy under subdivision 1 results in a fine of \$..... to the sponsor or permittee, and the sponsor or permittee is ineligible for future permits under Minnesota Rules, part 6100.0550. All fines collected under this subdivision shall be deposited in the general fund.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2022, and applies to written permits, contracts, leases, and other written agreements entered into on or after that date.

Sec. 4. **[471.472] SENSORY-FRIENDLY ACCOMMODATIONS; SPECIAL EVENTS.**

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

(b) "Place of public accommodation" means a facility or area that is publicly owned and is designed for occupancy of 1,000 people or more. This includes but is not limited to a publicly owned sports or entertainment arena, stadium, theater, community or convention hall, special event center, amusement facility, or special event center in a public park.

(c) "Sensory friendly" means methods designed for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and sensory sensitivities.

(d) "Special event" means a parade, race, procession, fair, carnival, community picnic, celebration, fundraiser, dance, concert, large assembly, festival, or other gathering of a similar nature.

Subd. 2. **Permit; written accommodations plan.** A home rule charter or statutory city, county, or town, that has adopted an ordinance that requires a permit for a special event at a place of public accommodation must require that the permit application include a written accommodations plan that meets the criteria of subdivision 3 when the anticipated attendance

4.1 is over 1,000 people. The accommodations plan must be submitted in the form, manner,  
4.2 and time prescribed by the chief governing body of the city, county, or town.

4.3 Subd. 3. **Accommodations plan requirements.** (a) The written accommodations plan  
4.4 must include at least one of the following:

4.5 (1) a designated sensory-friendly area at the special event;

4.6 (2) a special event design plan that includes sensory-friendly elements;

4.7 (3) the distribution of mobile tool kits with items that support sensory needs; or

4.8 (4) a special event schedule with designated sensory-friendly time periods.

4.9 (b) The written accommodations plan must include a description of how information  
4.10 about on-site accommodations requests will be communicated to special event attendees  
4.11 prior to and during the special event.

4.12 (c) The written accommodations plan must include a description of how special event  
4.13 staff will be trained to process an on-site sensory-friendly accommodations request.

4.14 Subd. 4. **Model accommodations plan policy.** A home rule charter or statutory city,  
4.15 county, or town, described in subdivision 2 must consult the model sensory-friendly  
4.16 accommodations plan policy under section 16B.2406, subdivision 4, when reviewing a  
4.17 written accommodations plan policy submitted under subdivision 2.

4.18 Subd. 5. **Accommodations plan noncompliance.** Noncompliance with the written  
4.19 accommodations plan policy submitted under subdivision 2 results in a fine of \$..... to the  
4.20 permit applicant, and the permit applicant is ineligible for future permits for special events  
4.21 in the city, county, or town. All fines collected under this subdivision shall be remitted to  
4.22 the commissioner of management and budget for deposit in the general fund.

4.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2022, and applies to special event  
4.24 permit applications received on or after that date.