

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1901

02/25/2014 Authored by Runbeck and Scott
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to metropolitan government; providing for reverse referendum on
1.3 the Metropolitan Council's proposed capital projects and development guide;
1.4 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 473.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[473.1815] REVERSE REFERENDUM OPTION.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Capital projects.** Before the council approves its capital budget
1.8 for the next year, the council must publish a list of proposed capital projects with an
1.9 estimated total cost of \$10,000,000 or more once each week for two consecutive weeks in
1.10 the official publication of the council, and as a link on the home page of the council's Web
1.11 site, to notify the public of the council's intent to adopt the capital budget and implement
1.12 the projects. Following publication and prior to adopting the capital budget, the council
1.13 shall provide an opportunity at its next regular meeting for public comment relating to the
1.14 proposed capital projects. Twenty days after the public comment opportunity, the council
1.15 may adopt the capital budget and begin implementation of the capital projects unless a
1.16 petition has been filed with the council requesting a referendum on a capital project. The
1.17 petition must be signed by at least ten percent of the registered voters of the county or
1.18 counties in which at least 50 percent of the project would be implemented. The petition
1.19 must meet the requirements of the secretary of state, as provided in Minnesota Statutes,
1.20 section 204B.071, and any rules adopted to implement that section. If the petition is
1.21 sufficient, the question of implementing the project must be placed on the ballot at a
1.22 regular or special election in the county or counties. If a majority of the voters of those
1.23 voting on the question vote in favor of the project, the project may be implemented.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Development guide.** Before the council approves any amendment or
2.2 revision to the metropolitan development guide, as defined in section 473.145, the council
2.3 must publish a summary of the proposed changes once each week for two consecutive
2.4 weeks in the official publication of the council, and as a link on the home page of
2.5 the council's Web site, to notify the public of the council's intent to adopt the revised
2.6 development guide. Following publication and prior to adopting the revised development
2.7 guide, the council shall provide an opportunity at its next regular meeting for public
2.8 comment. Twenty days after the public comment opportunity, the council may adopt the
2.9 revised development guide unless a petition has been filed with the council requesting a
2.10 referendum on adoption of the revised development guide. The petition must be signed by
2.11 at least ten percent of the registered voters of the metropolitan area. The petition must
2.12 meet the requirements of the secretary of state, as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section
2.13 204B.071, and any rules adopted to implement that section. If the petition is sufficient,
2.14 the question of implementing the project must be placed on the ballot at a regular or
2.15 special election in the metropolitan counties. If a majority of the voters of those voting
2.16 on the question vote in favor of the revised development guide, the revised development
2.17 guide may be adopted.

2.18 **APPLICATION.** This section applies in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota,
2.19 Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott, and Washington.