S.F. No. 387, as introduced - 87th Legislative Session (2011-2012) [11-1277]

SENATE STATE OF MINNESOTA EIGHTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE

S.F. No. 387

(SENATE AUTHORS: BROWN and Rest)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/21/2011	272	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Judiciary and Public Safety
02/28/2011	313	Withdrawn and re-referred to Commerce and Consumer Protection
04/14/2011	1322a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety

1.1	A bill for an act
1.2	relating to commerce; regulating building and construction contracts and
1.3	indemnification agreements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2010, sections
1.4	337.01; 337.02; 337.05, subdivision 1; 337.10.
1.5	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 337.01, is amended to read:

1.7 **337.01 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS;**

- 1.8 **INDEMNIFICATION AGREEMENTS.**
- Subdivision 1. Definition. As used in sections 337.01 to 337.05 and 337.10, the
 following terms have the meanings assigned to them.
- 1.11 Subd. 2. Building and construction contract. "Building and construction
- 1.12 contract" means a contract for the design, construction, alteration, improvement, repair
- 1.13 or maintenance of real property, highways, roads or bridges. The term does not include
- 1.14 contracts for the maintenance or repair of machinery, equipment or other such devices
- 1.15 used as part of a manufacturing, converting or other production process, including
- electric, gas, steam, and telephone utility equipment used for production, transmission,
- 1.17 or distribution purposes.
- Subd. 3. Indemnification agreement. "Indemnification agreement" means an
 agreement by the promisor to indemnify or, hold harmless, or defend the promisee against
 liability or claims of liability for damages arising out of bodily injury to persons or out of
 physical damage to tangible or real property or for economic loss.
- 1.22 <u>Subd. 3a.</u> Professional services contract. "Professional services contract" means
 1.23 a contract for services that are provided by a person licensed under sections 326.02
- 1.24 to 326.15.

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2.1 Subd. 4. Promisee. "Promisee" includes that party's independent contractors,
2.2 agents, employees or indemnitees.

2.3 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 337.02, is amended to read:

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337.02 UNENFORCEABILITY OF CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.

An indemnification agreement contained in, or executed in connection with, a 2.5 professional services contract or a building and construction contract is unenforceable 2.6 except to the extent that: (1) the underlying injury or damage is attributable to the 2.7 negligent or otherwise wrongful act or omission, including breach of a specific contractual 2.8 duty, of the promisor or the promisor's independent contractors, agents, employees, 2.9 or delegatees; or (2) an owner, a responsible party, or a governmental entity agrees to 2.10 indemnify a contractor directly or through another contractor with respect to strict liability 2.11 under environmental laws. 2.12

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 337.05, subdivision 1, is amended to read:
Subdivision 1. Agreements valid. Sections 337.01 to 337.05 do not affect the
validity of agreements building and construction contracts whereby a promisor agrees to
provide specific insurance coverage for the benefit of others.

2.17 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2010, section 337.10, is amended to read:

2.18 337.10 BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS; PROHIBITED 2.19 PROVISIONS.

Subdivision 1. Application of laws of another state. Provisions contained in,
 or executed in connection with, a building and construction contract <u>or a professional</u>
 <u>services contract</u> to be performed in Minnesota making the contract subject to the laws of
 another state or requiring that any litigation, arbitration, or other dispute resolution process
 on the contract occur in another state are void and unenforceable.

Subd. 2. Waiver of lien or claim. Provisions contained in, or executed in connection
with, a building and construction contract <u>or a professional services contract</u> requiring a
contractor, subcontractor, or material supplier to waive the right to a mechanics lien or to a
claim against a payment bond before the person has been paid for the labor or materials or
both that the person furnished are void and unenforceable. This provision shall not affect
the validity of a waiver as to any third party who detrimentally relies upon the waiver.
Subd. 3. Prompt payment to subcontractors. A building and construction contract

2.31 <u>or a professional services contract</u> shall be deemed to require the prime contractor and all 2.33 subcontractors to promptly pay any subcontractor or material supplier contract within ten

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days of receipt by the party responsible for payment of payment for undisputed services 3.1 provided by the party requesting payment. The contract shall be deemed to require the 3.2 party responsible for payment to pay interest of 1-1/2 percent per month to the party 3.3 requesting payment on any undisputed amount not paid on time. The minimum monthly 3.4 interest penalty payment for an unpaid balance of \$100 or more is \$10. For an unpaid 3.5 balance of less than \$100, the party responsible for payment shall pay the actual penalty 3.6 due to the party requesting payment. A party requesting payment who prevails in a civil 3.7 action to collect interest penalties from a party responsible for payment must be awarded 3.8 its costs and disbursements, including attorney fees incurred in bringing the action. 3.9

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

(b) Unless the building and construction contract provides otherwise, an owner or
owner's agent may reserve as retainage from any progress payment on a building and
construction contract an amount not to exceed five percent of the payment. An owner or
owner's agent may reduce the amount of retainage and may eliminate retainage on any
monthly contract payment if, in the owner's opinion, the work is progressing satisfactorily.
(c) This subdivision does not apply to contracts for professional services as defined
in sections 326.02 to 326.15.

3.23 Subd. 5. Definition. For the purpose of this section, "building and construction
3.24 contract" has and "professional services contract" have the meaning meanings given the
3.25 term in section 337.01.

3.26 Sec. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE; APPLICATION.

3.27 Sections 1 to 4 are effective August 1, 2011, and apply to contracts and agreements
3.28 entered into on or after that date.

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