



# The Association of Minnesota Building Officials

*"Safe Homes – Resilient Communities"*

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## Session Overview

April

- Legislators are working to pass omnibus bills so those omnibus bills can be sent to conference committee.
- Conference committees are made up of several House members and several Senate members who are appointed to negotiate the differences out of the House and Senate bills.
- Once the bills become identical through negotiation, each bill needs to be repassed in each body and then they can be sent to the Governor to be signed into law or vetoed.
- The process is complicated, in part due to upcoming elections and the wildly differing ideas of how to allocate the \$9+ billion budget surplus.
  - The Republican Senate proposes giving \$8.43 billion back to taxpayers and the Democrat House proposes allocating about \$7 billion to current or new programming. These differences leave many asking if anything will pass.
- Further complicating matters, is the expected infusion of \$7.4b (\$2.2b of new funding) from the [Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(IIJA\)](#) & other competitive/matching grants.
- Bonding: the Governor has proposed a \$2.73 billion bonding bill and the House & Senate have yet to release formal bonding proposals. A 3/5 majority is needed to pass a bonding bill.
- Session ends on May 23, 2022, but bills can only be passed prior to May 22, at midnight, so the next month will be very busy.

## Relevant Construction Bills

Omnibus Bill Provisions (h = house bill; s = senate bill)

### **Agriculture & Housing Omnibus:**

- PUD prohibitions & limiting city zoning authority over aesthetic aspects of a home to the requirements of the SBC. (s)
- \$5,000,000 in grants for sprinklers in residential buildings for non-profits. (s)
- \$400,000,000 in affordable housing bonds. (h)

**Jobs, Labor, Energy Omnibus:**

- Requires the State Building Code (SBC) incorporate nationally recognized safety standards for window cleaning. (h & s)
- Permanent building fee reductions retroactively from 10.1.21. (h & s)
- Clarifies work excluded from the scope of the elevator licensure. (h & s)
- Clarifies work for load control that is exempted from electrical inspections. (s)
- Exemption from plumbing licensure requirements for backflow prevention work. (s)
- Create the Division of Apprenticeship, separate from the Division of Labor Standards. (h)
- Contractor licensing fee *holiday* for the period from 7/1/22 to 6/30/24. (h)
- Designates assisted living facilities as a state licensed facilities that DLI is directly responsible for administration and enforcement of the SBC. (h)
- Requires DLI to adopt a new commercial energy code and amend it as necessary to achieve a minimum of eight percent additional energy efficiency. (h)
- Increase MN-OSHA penalties to conform with required Federal OSHA & link to CPI. (h)
- Requires a percent of the employees of any contractor working at a petroleum refinery must have experience with a registered apprenticeship program. (h)
- Earned sick and safe time with a prevailing wage exception. (h)
- Establishes a program to award grants to nonprofits, labor organizations, and worker training centers to train workers for weatherization careers. (h)
- Requires commercial & institutional buildings of 50,000+ sf to report energy use. (h)
- Authorizes cities to adopt the most recently published ASHRAE commercial energy code prior to adoption of a more energy efficient code by DLI (a stretch code). (h)
- Convenes a task force to make recommendations regarding: (1) construction product environmental life-cycle impacts; and (2) max greenhouse gas emissions per products. (h)

**Stand Alone Bills (on the House and/or Senate floor)**

- DLI required to develop an average SQF value for new 1 & 2 family homes. This metric will be used in city formulas to determine permit price.

- Sealed county bid threshold increased for small & veteran businesses from \$250k to \$750k.
- Carpet stewardship & carpet recycling taskforce & prohibition of PFAS in carpet and textiles in 2024 (Environmental omnibus bill - h).
- Radon licensing activities regulation transfer to the commissioner of labor and industry.
- Certified salt applicator program established, liability limited, and report required.
- Third-party commercial driver's license road tests authorization and appropriation.
- Builder apprenticeship preparation program funding provided, and \$300,000 appropriated.
- \$1 million allocated in grants of 5,000 for up to 2-year vocational training programs.
- Allocation of \$2.5m to Summit OIC.
- New state building/remodels must meet 2030 energy standards via renewable energy sources.
- Industrialized/modular residential buildings may not be prohibited by regulation.
- Legislative auditor direction to conduct a contract electrical inspectors' salary survey.
- Residential contractor can earn state seal for used manufactured homes after 3-hour training.