



Senate Environmental Resources and Energy Committee

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Chairman

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Summary Senate SB 1136, P.N.1455

Prime Sponsor: Senator Rafferty

Overview

Entitled the “High-Performance State Government Buildings Standards Act”. Requires certain state-owned facilities or facilities owned or leased by rapidly growing school districts to meet high-performance, energy efficient building standards.

Scope

The following building projects shall be subject to this act:

- Facilities owned by the Commonwealth or State-affiliated entities.
- Facilities owned or leased by rapidly growing school districts.
- Major facility projects.
 - State-owned construction project where the building is larger than 5,000 gross square feet.
 - State-owned building renovation project where state funding exceeds either 50% of the construction cost, or \$500,000 in State funds.
 - New construction project in which the building to be constructed is more than 10,000 gross square feet and in which building a Commonwealth agency has agreed to lease 90% of the gross square feet.

Applicability

The act shall apply to all project design contracts initiated on or after the effective date of the act, and to all construction contracts initiated one year after the effective date of the act.

Standards

Standards used to comply with this act must:

- Be consensus based
- Include performance-based categories or credits that will foster purposes of the act
- Require verifiable documentation of appropriateness of standards

- Employ third-party, post-construction review and verification for achievement of certification
- Have a track record of certified green buildings in the United States

In addition to meeting the high-performance building standards, all projects are required to achieve an Environmental Protection Agency Energy Star rating of 85 or above.

Annual Report

The Department of General Services shall submit an annual report to the Senate and House Environmental Resources and Energy Committees and the Senate and House, which shall include the following information:

- Number and type of buildings designed and constructed using each of the rating systems recognized by the act
- Levels of certification of each building designed, constructed or renovated
- Actual savings in energy consumption
- Description of all potential environmental benefits, including water resource savings and reduction of waste
- Any barriers which hinder effective implementation of the act

Regulations

The Department of General Services, in consultation with the Department of Environmental Protection, shall promulgate regulations necessary to effectuate this act.

Effective Date

This act shall take effect as follows:

- (1) Section 5 shall take effect in one year.
- (2) The remainder of this act shall take effect in 60 days.