

## Department of Planning and Budget 2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. **Bill Number:** HB471

**House of Origin**     Introduced     Substitute     Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute     Enrolled

2. **Patron:** Subramanyam

3. **Committee:** General Laws

4. **Title:** Solar-ready roof requirements for state agencies and localities;

5. **Summary:** Requires any executive branch agency or institution and any locality entering the design phase for the construction of a new building greater than 5,000 gross square feet in size, or the renovation of a building where the cost of the renovation exceeds 50 percent of the value of the building, to ensure that such building includes a solar-ready roof, defined in the bill as having the structural capability to accept the increased load from solar panels, proper sizing of the electrical panel, installation of conduit and wire from the roof to the electrical panel, use of solar-appropriate roof membranes and other roofing materials, and clustering of vents and non-solar equipment to maximize available space for solar panels. However, the provisions of the bill do not apply to localities with a population of less than 100,000 until July 1, 2023. The bill also requires new public school buildings and facilities, and improvements and renovations to existing public school buildings and facilities where the cost of the renovation exceeds 50 percent of the value of the building to be designed, constructed, maintained, and operated to generate more electricity than consumed.

6. **Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

7. **Fiscal Impact Estimates:** There is an indeterminate fiscal impact on future construction costs. See Item 8.

8. **Fiscal Implications:** The fiscal impacts of this bill are indeterminate. The bill requires that new buildings greater than 5,000 square feet in size constructed by the state and certain renovated state-owned buildings have a solar-ready roof, defined in the bill as “having the structural capability to accept the increased load from solar panels, proper sizing of the electrical panel, installation of conduit and wire from the roof to the electrical panel, use of solar-appropriate roof membranes and other roofing materials, and clustering of vents and non-solar equipment to maximize available space for solar panels.” These requirements are likely to affect the cost of construction and renovations, but would be dependent on the specific buildings and situation surrounding their construction or renovation. If it is assumed that buildings constructed or renovated pursuant to these requirements would subsequently be outfitted with solar panels or similar equipment, there would likely be some operational energy savings, however, any potential savings is indeterminate and would need to be evaluated during the planning phase of construction.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of General Services, institutions of higher education, and local public bodies.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** None.

Date: January 27, 2022

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