

Subject Biofuel

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Overview

This bill would require state agencies and companies that produce ethanol, biodiesel, or other biofuels to monitor wastewater, air emissions, fuel, and certain coproducts for the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides and perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). It would also direct the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to conduct voluntary biomonitoring of biofuel production workers to assess their occupational exposure to neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs.

According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), neonicotinoids are a class of insecticides widely used as a seed treatment for various crops.

According to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), PFAS are a group of more than 5,000 manmade chemicals that are known to be hazardous to human health and do not break down over time.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Biofuel coproducts.
Requires the MDA to sample and test dried distillers grains and any other biofuel production coproducts sold as animal feed for the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs. |
| 2 | Biofuel plants.
Requires the MPCA to incorporate into wastewater discharge permits for biofuel production plants a requirement that the permittee monitor the wastewater for the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs. Requires the permittee's monitoring system to be capable of maintaining a permanent record of monitoring results and requires MPCA to periodically inspect these monitoring systems to verify accuracy. |

Section	Description
3	<p>Biofuel permits; monitoring.</p> <p>Requires the MPCA to incorporate into air emissions permits for biofuel production plants a requirement that the permittee monitor emissions for the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs. Requires the permittee’s monitoring system to be capable of maintaining a permanent record of monitoring results and requires MPCA to periodically inspect these monitoring systems to verify accuracy.</p>
4	<p>Biofuel testing required.</p> <p>Requires the MPCA, in consultation with the Department of Commerce, to sample and test biofuel produced in this state for the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs.</p>
5	<p>Biomonitoring.</p> <p>Requires the MDH to conduct voluntary biomonitoring of biofuel plant employees to assess workplace exposure to neonicotinoid pesticides and PFAs.</p>
6	<p>Appropriations.</p> <p>Appropriates base funding to MDA, MPCA, and MDH for purposes of this act. Appropriates additional onetime funding to MDA to perform a lifecycle assessment of the presence of neonicotinoid pesticides in the biofuel production process and report to the legislature by December 15, 2024.</p>



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