

Subject Public Waters
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Summary

This bill would modify the definition of “public waters” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G (Waters of the State) to state that their inclusion or exclusion on the public waters inventory prepared by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is not how public waters are exclusively defined.

The DNR was required by law to develop and maintain a list and maps of public waters by the end of 1982. The DNR has the authority to revise the list and maps and has been making updates to make corrections. Inconsistencies with statutory definitions, the list, and maps have caused some question as to what is considered a “public water” for purposes of state regulatory authority under chapter 103G. This has resulted in litigation.