

Subject Soil and Water Conservation

Authors Heintzeman

Analyst Janelle Taylor

Date March 23, 2026

### Overview

This bill makes a number of changes to the state's soil and water conservation district (SWCD) statutes.

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Soil and water conservation policy.</b></p> <p>Makes a technical update to the state's soil and water conservation policy to remove reference to "land occupiers" and replace it with "land owners and authorized agents."</p>
2	<p><b>Determination after referendum.</b></p> <p>Removes considerations that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) must make when determining whether the operation of an SWCD is administratively feasible after publishing the results of the referendum for its creation. Adds scientific factors to the list of considerations that BWSR must consider.</p>
3	<p><b>Determination by state board.</b></p> <p>Removes considerations that BWSR must make when determining whether the continued operation of an SWCD is administratively feasible. Adds scientific factors to the list of considerations that BWSR must consider.</p>
4	<p><b>Demonstration projects.</b></p> <p>Removes restrictions on the types of land that an SWCD may conduct demonstration projects on.</p>
5	<p><b>Implementing practices.</b></p> <p>Removes restrictions on the types of land that an SWCD may implement certain practices on.</p>

Section	Description
6	<b>Implementing soil and water conservation policy.</b> Removes restrictions on the parties that an SWCD may cooperate with, enter into agreements with, or provide aid to.
7	<b>Using machinery and supplies.</b> Removes restrictions on SWCDs regarding who they may provide certain equipment and supplies to, and broadens the type of materials and equipment that may be provided.
8	<b>Agreements for state or federal assistance.</b> Makes a technical update to remove reference to “land occupiers” and replace it with “land owners and authorized agents.”
9	<b>Technical and administrative assistance to districts.</b> Makes a technical change to remove reference to “land occupiers.”
10	<b>Contracts by districts.</b> Removes restrictions on who an SWCD may provide certain technical and financial assistance to.
11	<b>Inspections.</b> Requires SWCD site inspections to determine compliance with installation specifications.
12	<b>Repealer.</b> Repeals the definition of “land occupier” (§ 103C.101, subd. 8) no longer being used under changes in the bill.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn.gov/hrd](http://www.house.mn.gov/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | Third Floor, Centennial Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155