

Subject Nitrate private well mitigation appropriation

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Summary

This bill would appropriate \$3,866,000 in both fiscal years 2026 and 2027 from the general fund to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for nitrate private well mitigation (including reverse osmosis) and private drinking water well repair and reconstruction. The use of this appropriation is limited to private drinking water wells with nitrate levels above the maximum contaminant level of 10 milligrams per liter in the following counties: Dodge, Fillmore, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmstead, Wabasha, and Winona. MDA must prioritize households at or below 300% of the federal poverty guideline and households with infants or pregnant individuals.

Other permissive uses of this appropriation include education, outreach, and technical assistance for homeowners; the transfer of money to the Department of Health for a mitigation program for contaminated wells in the counties listed in the prior paragraph; and administrative costs (limited to up to 6.5% of the total appropriation).