

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 164

SESSION: 2014 Regular Session

TOPIC: Drainage

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Overview

This act makes changes to the state's drainage law that were recommended by the Drainage Work Group. The Drainage Work Group is a group of drainage stakeholders facilitated by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Section

- 1 Environmental, land use, and multipurpose water management criteria.** Amends § 103E.015, subd. 1. Modifies the criteria that a drainage authority must consider before establishing a drainage project, including requiring the consideration of alternative measures identified in local water management plans (erosion and flooding reduction, protection/improvements to water quality, and other measures) and the project's compatibility with local land use plans.
- 2 Investigating potential use of external sources of funding and technical assistance.** Adds § 103E.015, subd. 1a. Requires a drainage authority to investigate the potential for other sources of funding, including requiring early coordination with soil and water conservation districts and other water planning authorities. States that a drainage authority may request additional information from BWSR on the availability of alternative funding sources and technical assistance.
- 3 Determining public utility, benefit, or welfare.** Amends § 103E.015, subd. 2. Clarifies that public benefit determination requirements also apply to repairs. Adds wetlands to the list of natural resources that are to be considered when making the determinations.
- 4 Grounds for appeal.** Amends § 103E.091, subd. 1. Technical.
- 5 Survey.** Amends § 103E.245, subd. 1. Technical.

Section

- 6** **Limitation of survey.** Amends § 103E.245, subd. 2. Technical.
- 7** **Preliminary survey report.** Amends § 103E.245, subd. 4. Technical.
- 8** **Commissioner's preliminary advisory report.** Amends § 103E.255. Technical.
- 9** **Dismissal.** Amends § 103E.261, subd. 4. Technical.
- 10** **Findings and order.** Amends § 103E.261, subd. 5. Technical.
- 11** **Other information on practicability and necessity of drainage project.** Amends § 103E.285, subd. 10. Technical.
- 12** **Commissioner's final advisory report.** Amends § 103E.301. Technical.
- 13** **Dismissal proceedings.** Amends § 103E.341, subd. 1. Technical.
- 14** **Contract provisions for changes during construction.** Amends § 103E.501, subd. 4. Technical.