

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Blaine and Swenson

Subject: Alien farm land ownership law

Analyst: Sam Rankin 651-296-5047

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Overview

Minnesota alien farm law (and corporate farm law) place restrictions on the persons and entities allowed to own farm land in Minnesota or to engage in a farming enterprise. Generally, no farming enterprise can have more than 20 percent foreign ownership. House File 447 amends the alien farm law to allow holders of "E-2" visas to own farm land and engage in farming. The E-2 visa is issued only to citizens of countries with which the United States has certain treaties. The purpose of an E-2 visa is to allow persons to relocate to and make economic investments in a country where they are not citizens.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** For purposes of alien farm law, the definition of "permanent resident alien of the United States" is broadened to include a holder of an E-2 investment visa. As with other permanent resident aliens, holders of the E-2 must actually maintain their principal dwelling place within the United States for at least 6 months of every year.
- 2** **Determination of alien status.** A permanent resident alien, including a holder of an E-2 visa, will now be required to report to the commissioner of agriculture within 30 days after purchasing farm property.
- 3** **Penalty.** Expands an existing penalty (for failure of an alien to register) to cover the act of failing to file a report within 30 days of the purchase of farm property.
- 4** **Effective date.** Sections 1 to 3 are effective the day following final enactment.