

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would establish permitting efficiency goals for the Department of Agriculture, Department of Natural Resources, and the Pollution Control Agency and modifies environmental review provisions.

Section

- 1 Permitting efficiency goal and report - Department of Agriculture.** Establishes a goal in the Department of Agriculture permitting process that environmental and resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of submission of a completed application and requires the commissioner to establish management systems to achieve that goal. Requires the commissioner to report on the department's ability to achieve the goal, including reasons for not meeting the goal on individual permits.
- 2 Permitting efficiency goal and report - Department of Natural Resources.** Establishes a goal in the Department of Natural Resources permitting process that environmental and resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of submission of a completed application and requires the commissioner to establish management systems to achieve that goal. Requires the commissioner to report on the department's ability to achieve the goal, including reasons for not meeting the goal on individual permits.
- 3 Permitting efficiency goal and report - Pollution Control Agency.** Establishes a goal in the Pollution Control Agency permitting process that environmental and resource management permits be issued or denied within 150 days of submission of a completed application and requires the commissioner to establish management systems to achieve that goal. Requires the commissioner to report on the department's ability to achieve the goal, including reasons for not meeting the goal on individual permits.
- 4 When prepared.** Requires a responsible government unit to avoid duplication and ensure coordination between state and federal agencies regarding environmental review and permitting.

- 5 **Review.** Provides that decisions on the need for an environmental assessment worksheet, the need for an environmental impact statement, and the adequacy of an environmental impact statement may be reviewed by the Court of Appeals (currently they may be reviewed by a declaratory judgment action in the district court of the county where the proposed action would be undertaken).

- 6 **Customized environmental assessment worksheet forms.** Directs state agencies and the Environmental Quality Board to periodically review mandatory environmental assessment worksheet categories and other project types subject to environmental review and develop customized environmental assessment worksheet forms for the categories and project types. Requires the agencies and board to seek input from the general public in the development of the forms.