

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3254
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 8, 2010

Authors: Kelly and Drazkowski

Subject: Wind turbine siting

Analyst: Bob Eleff

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Section

- 1** [216B.1691] **Subd. 2b. Modification or delay of standard.** Adds to items the public utilities commission is to consider in determining whether or not to modify or delay the requirement of a utility to comply with the state's Renewable Energy Standard (the requirement that 12 percent of an electric utility's generation comes from renewable sources by 2012, increasing to 25 percent in 2025) the availability of suitable sites for locating renewable projects, in light of local land use restrictions.
- 2** [216F.081.] **Application of county standards.** Strikes the word "standards" and inserts "official controls" for the conditions a county may impose in siting wind turbines. "Official controls" is defined in statute as legislatively defined and enacted policies and standards, including zoning ordinances, site plan rules, official maps, etc. States that a county may prohibit siting of a large wind energy conversion system (LWECS, i.e., greater than five megawatts capacity) in districts established in zoning ordinances.