

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 216

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Version: As introduced

Authors: Faust and Jackson

Subject: Modifying the Green Acres program

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Overview

H.F. 216 makes a number of modifications to the Minnesota Agricultural Property Tax Law (better known as the “Green Acres” program), undoing some of the changes made in 2008. It once again allows land in government-sponsored conservation programs to be eligible and allows property owners to withdraw a portion of their rural vacant land from the program without withdrawing all of it. It also allows land to be withdrawn from the program prior to January 2, 2010, without any payback, and allows any rural vacant land that is currently enrolled to continue to qualify if transferred to a family member.

Section

- 1 Requirements.** Allows land enrolled in federal- and state-sponsored conservation programs such as RIM and CRP to be enrolled in Green Acres (as had been the case prior to 2008).
- 2 Property that no longer qualifies as agricultural under 2008 law changes.** This section makes a number of changes to the Green Acres program affecting property that was enrolled in Green Acres prior to the 2008 changes, but that would no longer be eligible to enroll based on the 2008 changes (this is primarily land in the new “rural vacant land” classification):
 - Allows a property owner to withdraw some rural vacant land from the Green Acres program without withdrawing all rural vacant land (on the same parcel) from the program.
 - Allows property classified as rural vacant land to remain in Green Acres indefinitely if transferred to a qualified owner, defined as a parent, brother, sister, daughter, son, granddaughter, or grandson of the current owner, whether by blood or

marriage.

- Allows property classified as rural vacant land to be voluntarily withdrawn from Green Acres prior to January 2, 2010, with no back taxes due (under the 2008 law, the deadline was January 2, 2009, and three years of back taxes were due).

Effective retroactively to property transfers and program withdrawals occurring after May 1, 2008. (May 1 reflects the application date for enrolling in the program.)