

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Gardner  
**Subject:** Compostable plastic bags  
**Analyst:** Tom Pender  
Bob Eleff

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### Section

- 1 [115A.931] Yard waste prohibition.** As of January 1, 2010, prohibits placing yard waste or source-separated compostable materials generated in a metropolitan county in a plastic bag delivered to a transfer station or compost facility, unless the plastic bag is compostable based on specified standards stated in the bill. Exempts plastic bags that are used to deliver waste, but are immediately emptied and removed. Exempts residents of cities of the first class that have an organized collection system for source separated compostable materials from this law until January 2012.
- 2 [325E.046] Standards for labeling plastic bags.**
  - Subd. 1. "Biodegradable" label.** Prohibits the manufacture or import into Minnesota for sale of a plastic bag labeled "biodegradable," "degradable," or a similar term, or labeled in any way that implies that the plastic bag will biodegrade, unless a scientifically based standard for biodegradability is developed and the plastic bag is certified as meeting that standard.
  - Subd. 2. "Compostable" label.** Similar to previous subdivision, but applies to items labeled as "compostable." Requires that the bag meet a specified standard and be so labeled.
  - Subd. 3. Enforcement; civil penalty; injunctive relief.** Provides that a person who willfully violates this section is subject to a civil penalty of \$100 per violation, up to \$5,000, and may be enjoined from such violations. Permits the attorney general to enforce subdivision 1, including acceptance of an assurance of discontinuance, as permitted in section 8.31, subdivision 2b.