

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Faust

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Analyst: Colbey Sullivan

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Overview

This bill modifies two task forces that advise the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and eliminates two annual reports.

Section

- 1** **Duties.** Food Safety and Defense Task Force. Adds duties pertaining to food defense, consistent with the group's title.
- 2** **Commissioner duties.** Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force. No longer would the MDA appoint task force members by itself – representatives of the University of Minnesota would now be involved in task force selection. The task force would advise not only the MDA but also the University. The task force would be required to advise the MDA and University on how available resources could best be utilized to meet the needs of the organic agriculture community. Broadens task force eligibility to allow representatives of organic products other than food. The number of at-large members would increase from one to two. Extends the task force's expiration date four years, to 2013.
- 3** **Repealer.** Eliminates MDA annual reports on the state's aquaculture industry (§ 17.49, subd. 3) and harmful terrestrial invasive species (§ 18G.12, subd. 5).
- 4** **Effective date.** Makes section 2 effective June 30, 2009.