

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill eliminates and reassigns various duties of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB), alters the structure of the board by removing the public members, and requires the board only to meet as needed to fulfill its remaining duties, which include its responsibilities related to environmental review.

- 1 **Duties.** Amends § 17.114, subd. 3. Eliminates a requirement of the commissioner of agriculture to report to the EQB on sustainable agriculture.
- 2 **Pesticide management plan.** Amends § 18B.045. Eliminates a requirement of the commissioner of agriculture to submit a status report to the EQB on the commissioner's pesticide management plan.
- 3 **Report.** Amends § 18E.06. Eliminates the EQB from the list of entities required to receive a report from the Agricultural Chemical Response Compensation Board.
- 4 **Groundwater policy.** Amends § 103A.204. Reassigns the duty of the EQB to coordinate the state's groundwater policy to the Clean Water Council and assigns the council the duty of preparing a report on related policy issues.
- 5 **Powers and duties.** Amends § 103B.101, subd. 9. Eliminates a requirement of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to cooperate with the EQB when fulfilling its duties to facilitate communication and coordination among state agencies and state and local governments on water and soil resource management.
- 6 **Coordination of water resource planning.** Amends § 103B.151. Reassigns the duties of the EQB regarding coordination of state water planning to the Clean Water Council and assigns the chair of the Clean Water Council as the governor's representative on interstate water resource organizations (currently assigned to the chair of the EQB).
- 7 **State review.** Amends § 103B.315, subd. 5. Removes the EQB from the list of entities BWSR must consult with when reviewing local water management plans.
- 8 **Nonpoint source pollution control plan and program evaluation.** Amends § 103G.751. Requires the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to work through the Clean Water Council (rather than the EQB

as required currently) to coordinate nonpoint source pollution control programs and activities.

- 9 Evaluation.** Amends § 103H.151, subd. 4. Requires information collected by the commissioners of agriculture and the PCA on the effectiveness of best management practices to be submitted to the Clean Water Council (rather than the EQB as required currently).
- 10 Report.** Amends § 103H.175, subd. 3. Eliminates a requirement of the PCA to submit a draft status report to the EQB on the status of groundwater monitoring.
- 11 Report to the legislature.** Amends § 115B.20, subd. 6. Removes the EQB from the list of entities the commissioners of agriculture and the PCA must submit a report to on the activities funded with the remediation fund.
- 12 Board.** Amends § 116C.24, subd. 2. Modifies the definition of "board" as it refers to the EQB to mean the EQB modified and recodified in this bill.
- 13 Facility Siting Policy Development Committee.** Amends § 116C.842, subd. 1a. Removes the EQB from the list of entities with nonvoting membership on the Facility Siting Policy Development Committee.
- 14 Administration.** Amends § 116C.842, subd. 2a. Requires the PCA to provide administrative support to the Facility Siting Policy Development Committee (instead of the EQB as currently required).
- 15 Board.** Amends § 116C.91, subd. 2. Modifies the definition of "board" as it refers to the EQB to mean the EQB modified and recodified in this bill.
- 16 Environmental Quality Board.** Adds § 116D.035. Recodifies the EQB in chapter 116D (environmental review statutes) and modifies the make up of the board by removing the public members and including the executive branch representatives that currently sit on the board (the commissioners of administration, commerce, the PCA, natural resources, agriculture, health, employment and economic development, transportation, the chair of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and a representative of the governor's office). States that the representative from the governor's office serves as the chair (as is done currently). States the duties of the board are its duties under chapter 116D (environmental review), sections 116C.22 to 116.34 (environmental permitting coordination), and sections 116C.91 to 116C.97 (genetically engineered organisms). Requires the PCA to provide administrative support for the board.
- 17 Primary responsibility.** Amends § 116D.11, subd. 2. Requires the PCA (rather than the EQB as is the case currently) to prepare the energy and environmental strategy report.
- 18 Report to governor.** Amends § 116D.11, subd. 3. Makes technical changes necessary to move responsibility for the energy and environmental strategy report to the PCA (done in the previous section).
- 19 Responsibilities.** Amends § 216C.052, subd. 1. Removes the EQB as a potential host of meetings on electrical infrastructure and reliability at which the reliability administrator in the Department of Commerce is required to provide information on.
- 20 Draft report; public meeting.** Amends § 216C.18, subd. 2. Removes a requirement of the commissioner of commerce to submit a draft of the state's energy and conservation policy report to the EQB.
- 21 Revisor's instruction.** Instructs the revisor of statutes to replace the EQB with the commissioner of natural resources for purposes of the critical area sections of statute in chapter 116G. The commissioner already has jurisdiction over the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area.

- 22** **Repealer.** Repeals various sections related to the duties of the EQB, as follows: §§ 40A.122, 103F.614, and 473H.15 (review of eminent domain and other actions affecting certain agricultural areas); § 103A.403 (oversight of the availability of statewide nitrate data); § 103A.43 (reporting on water quality and water quantity assessments); §§ 115A.32 to 115A.39 (supplemental review of certain solid waste facilities); §§ 116C.02 to 116C.08 (establishment and duties of EQB); §§ 116C.71, subs. 1c and 2a, 116C.721, 116C.722, and 116C.724 (radioactive waste management responsibilities).