HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District termination

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Provides for termination of the Hennepin County Soil and Water Conservation District as of December 31, 2011. Soil and water conservation districts are elected bodies, with terms set in the application to establish the district that is submitted to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The bill is coded as special law for Hennepin County and transfers powers and duties of the district relating to the Wetland Conservation Act to the county and directs BWSR to facilitate a plan to continue administration of the district's remaining powers and duties. It requires the plan to be done and BWSR to certify termination of the district by September 1, 2011. It also provides that once the district is terminated, the district's ordinances and regulations are no longer in effect; contracts continue in effect as provided by the terms of the contracts. The BWSR substitutes for the district as a party to the contracts.

Effective upon local approval by the county board.

The general law governing termination provides for a district board by resolution or resident owners by petition to ask for termination of the district. BWSR may hold public meetings and hearings, and there is a referendum on a petition. BWSR makes the final determination on whether to terminate or continue the district.