

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Lake Superior-Poplar River Water District, capital investment

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### Overview

This bill authorizes the creation of the Lake Superior-Poplar River Water District (in Cook County) and appropriates \$3.6 million in state general obligation proceeds to the district to building the water system.

#### **1 Lake Superior-Poplar River Water District.**

**Subd. 1. Establishment.** Creates the district as a municipal corporation with the powers in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 110A (providing for rural water districts), 429 (special assessments), and 444 (water works, storm and sanitary sewer systems). Provides that the district cannot issue general obligation bonds. Provides that the sections of chapter 110A relating to establishing the district by petition and identifying the area to be included in the district (110A.04, 110A.09 to 110A.18) and election of directors (110A.07) do not apply to this district.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Provides that in applying Minnesota Statutes, chapter 110A to the district, "works" and "systems" include irrigation purposes, "court" means the board of county commissioners, and "secretary of state" means the county auditor.

**Subd. 3. Territory included in the district.** Specifies area and provides that additional territory may be added as provided in general law (petition to county board, public notice).

**Subd. 4. Payment of costs.** Provides for user financing of the system, apart from any initial capital investment funded by the state. Provides that no one is obligated or entitled to receive water from the district unless a party to a contract to purchase water.

**Subd. 5. Board of directors; elections.** Provides for a board of directors of between three and 13 members with the initial board appointed by the Cook County board of commissioners. Provides for staggered terms and the organizing meeting. Provides for an elected board under general law after that.

Effective upon local approval.

- 2**      **Appropriation and bond sale.** Appropriates \$3.6 million from state bond proceeds to the Public Facilities Authority for a grant to the Lake Superior-Poplar River Water District to acquire land, easements, and other interests in real property, and to design, engineer, and construct the water system using water from Lake Superior through the Poplar River Valley for domestic, irrigation, commercial, industrial and livestock uses. Requires a nonstate match of at least \$1.2 million. Permits nonstate expenditures on the project made since October 1, 2011, to count towards the match. Authorizes the sale of state bonds.

Effective the day after enactment.