

Bill Comparison Summary of House File 12, Second Engrossment/ H.F. 12, First Unofficial Engrossment

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HOUSE

SENATE

Sec.		
1	<p>Purpose. Provides that the purpose of the Green Acres program is "...to encourage and preserve farms by mitigating the property tax impact of increasing land values due to nonagricultural economic forces."</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>
2	<p>Additional taxes. Provides that for property originally enrolled in the Green Acres program after May 1, 2012, the payback period will be five years instead of three years.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>
3	<p>Requirements. Eliminates requirements for a conservation assessment plan and a covenant agreement for land being enrolled in the Rural Preserves program, implicitly eliminating the requirement that land be enrolled for a minimum of 8 years. Stipulates that only class 2b land that is currently classified as agricultural homestead, or that was <i>properly</i> classified as Green Acres land in 2008, is eligible for enrollment in the Rural Preserves program. Eliminates the 10-acre minimum, but requires the land to be contiguous to class 2a land under the same ownership that is enrolled in Green Acres.</p>	<p>Sec. 1. Requirements. Eliminates requirements for a conservation assessment plan and a covenant agreement for land being enrolled in the Rural Preserves program, implicitly eliminating the requirement that land be enrolled for a minimum of 8 years.</p>
4	<p>Application. Eliminates the description of the covenant agreement and all references to it.</p>	<p>Sec. 2. Application. Eliminates the description of the covenant agreement and all references to it. Requires applications for enrollment in Rural Preserves to be accompanied by an aerial photograph or satellite image of the property, and requires application forms to set forth the consequences to the property owner of termination of qualification. Requires the application form to contain a recommendation that land that is likely to be changed to a nonqualifying use should not be enrolled.</p>
5	<p>Additional taxes. Eliminates all references to the covenant agreement from the additional taxes section of the rural preserves program. Also provides that property that is initially enrolled after May 1, 2012, will be subject to a five-year payback requirement rather than a three-year requirement.</p>	<p>Sec. 3. Additional taxes. Eliminates all references to the covenant agreement from the additional taxes section of the rural preserves program.</p>
6	<p>Land removed from program. Provides that any land that was properly enrolled in the Green Acres program as of May 21, 2008, and was then removed from the program must be reinstated to the Green Acres program, in the case of class 2a property, or enrolled in the rural preserves program, in the case of class 2b property, at the request of the owner.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>

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	<p>Further provides that if any back-taxes have been paid with respect to properties being reinstated to the program, the county must refund the additional taxes to the property owner.</p> <p>Effective the day following final enactment.</p>	
7	<p>Covenants terminated. Provides that any covenants entered into for the purpose of enrolling in the rural preserves program are terminated.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>
8	<p>Study required. Requires the commissioner of revenue to explore alternative methods for valuing tillable and nontillable acreage enrolled in the Green Acres program or the Rural Preserves program, in consultation with the Department of Applied Economics at the University of Minnesota, the Minnesota Association of Assessing officers, and major farm groups. Requires the commissioner to make a report to the legislature describing the methodology to be used for the 2012 assessment prior to February 15, 2012.</p>	<p>No comparable provision</p>
9	<p>Repealer. Repeals statutory section providing definitions for Rural Preserves conservation assessment plans.</p>	<p>Sec. 4. Repealer. Same.</p>