HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 135 DATE: February 23, 2011

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Subject: Local Authority to Regulate Wells

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- Works; system. Amends § 110A.02, subd. 4. Amends the definition of "works" and "system" as it applies to rural water districts by adding the term "public" wells and states that a water district board cannot regulate construction or use of private wells. Rural water districts are authorized to be created by petition, with the powers, duties, and structure provided in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 110A. Rural water districts may not be created in the seven-county metropolitan area.
- Waterworks. Amends § 412.221, subd. 11. Amends the authority of city councils of statutory cities by stating councils have the authority to regulate public wells and the public water supply. Statutory cities are organized and operate under options provided in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 412 and other laws. (A home rule charter city may exercise a statutory city power if its charter is silent on the matter and the general law does not otherwise indicate the home rule charter city cannot exercise the power.)
- **Private wells.** Adds § 465.605. States that cities cannot regulate the construction and use of private wells.