

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Torkelson
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Analyst: Janelle Taylor

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Overview

This bill appropriates funds from the clean water fund largely based on the recommendations of the Clean Water Council. It also makes modifications to the Clean Water Legacy Act, including adding groundwater related activities and purposes to be consistent with the purposes of the clean water fund, as well as modifying the Clean Water Council to include legislators as nonvoting members and statutorily requiring the council to provide recommendations to the legislature on use of the funds from the clean water fund.

- 1 **Clean water fund appropriations.** Technical.
- 2 **Department of Agriculture.** Appropriates \$8,200,000 each year to the Department of Agriculture, including money:
 - to monitor pesticides and pesticide degradates in ground and surface waters;
 - to increase monitoring and evaluation of trends in nitrate concentrations;
 - for the agricultural best management loan program;
 - for research, pilot projects, and technical assistance related on proper implementation of best management practices;
 - to quantify agricultural contributions to impaired waters; and
 - for a research inventory database.
- 3 **Public Facilities Authority.** Appropriates \$11,185,000 each year to the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) for the total maximum daily load (TMDL) grant program; \$4,275,000 each year for the clean water legacy phosphorus reduction grant program; and \$1,250,000 each year for grants and loans for small community wastewater treatment.
- 4 **Pollution Control Agency.** Appropriates \$23,100,000 in fiscal year 2012 and \$22,600,000 in fiscal year 2013 to the Pollution Control Agency, including money for:
 - completion of 20 percent of the needed statewide surface water assessments;

- the development of TMDL studies and TMDL implementation plans;
- groundwater assessment;
- a restoration project in the lower St. Louis River and Duluth harbor;
- the clean water partnership program;
- storm water research and guidance;
- TMDL research and database development;
- national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) wastewater and storm water TMDL implementation;
- the Environmental Quality Board to characterize groundwater flow and aquifer properties in the I-94 corridor; and
- a wild rice standards study.

5 Department of Natural Resources. Appropriates \$11,160,000 in fiscal year 2012 and \$10,160,000 in fiscal year 2013 to the Department of Natural Resources, including money for:

- stream flow monitoring;
- lake Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) assessments;
- assessing mercury contamination of fish;
- TMDL development and implementation plans;
- water supply planning, aquifer protection, and monitoring activities;
- development of a web-based electronic permitting system for water appropriations;
- shoreland stewardship and TMDL implementation coordination;
- high-resolution digital elevation data (LiDAR) to be used in mapping;
- delivery of decision support tools through outreach, education and citizen engagement; and
- continuation of metropolitan groundwater work initiated last session.

6 Board of Water and Soil Resources. Appropriates \$27,192,000 each year to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, including money for:

- pollution reduction and restoration grants to local governments and joint powers organizations;
- targeted local resource protection and enhancement grants;
- state oversight and accountability of local implementation efforts;
- technical assistance and grants for the conservation drainage program;
- acquisition and restoration of permanent conservation easements on riparian buffers;
- permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas;
- community partners grants; and
- a technical assistance panel to conduct restoration audits required by statute last session.

Requires the board to contract with the Conservation Corps Minnesota for \$500,000 each year under the programs funded in this section.

7 Department of Health. Appropriates \$2,988,000 in fiscal year 2012 and \$3,050,00 in fiscal year 2013 to the Department of Health, including money for:

- addressing public health concerns related to drinking water contaminants of emerging concern;

- drinking water source protection;
 - cost-share assistance to public and private well owners; and
 - expansion of the county well index.
- 8 Metropolitan Council.** Appropriates \$500,000 each year to the Metropolitan Council for implementation of the master water supply plan.
- 9 Legislature.** Appropriates \$11,000 in fiscal year 2012 to the Legislative Coordinating Commission for the costs of developing the Web site tracking expenditures from the clean water fund and other constitutionally dedicated funds.
- 10 Legislative purpose and findings.** Amends § 114D.10. Amends the purpose of the Clean Water Legacy Act to be consistent with the purpose of the clean water fund, including the addition of groundwater.
- 11 Coordination and cooperation.** Amends § 114D.20, subd. 1. Amends the implementation policies of the Clean Water Legacy Act related to coordination and cooperation to include groundwater.
- 12 Goals for implementation.** Amends § 114D.20, subd. 2. Amends the implementation goals of the Clean Water Legacy Act to include goals related to groundwater.
- 13 Implementation policies.** Amends § 114D.20, subd. 3. Amends the implementation policies of the Clean Water Legacy Act to include groundwater restoration and protection.
- 14 Priorities for restoration of impaired waters.** Amends § 114D.20, subd. 6. Technical.
- 15 Priorities for funding prevention actions.** Amends § 114D.20, subd. 7. Amends the priorities for funding under the Clean Water Legacy Act to include groundwater activities.
- 16 Clean Water Council.** Amends § 114D.30. Modifies the existing Clean Water Council, including:
- adding the commissioner of health and four legislative members (two from each body representing the majority and minority parties) as nonvoting members of the Clean Water Council and states that legislative members are compensated as determined by the appointing authority;
 - prohibiting a voting member of the council from being a legislator; and
 - requiring the council to provide recommendations to the legislature on how the money from the clean water fund should be appropriated and requires those recommendations to be consistent with the constitutional and statutory purposes of the fund, including the addition of groundwater activities.
- 17 Public and stakeholder participation; scientific review; education.** Amends § 114D.35. Amends provisions related to public and stakeholder participation under the Clean Water Legacy Act to include the identification of degraded groundwater, and in protecting and restoring groundwater resources.
- 18 Civic engagement and public education.** Requires a recipient of funds to incorporate civic engagement and public education when implementing the projects and programs funded under the bill.
- 19 Availability of appropriations.** States that money appropriated in this bill may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation.
- 20 Repealer.** Repeals § 114D.45. Eliminates the obsolete clean water legacy account no longer needed with the establishment of the clean water fund.

