

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill makes a number of changes related to water appropriation permits issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

#### Section

- 1**      **Diversion greater than 2,000,000 gallons per day.** Amends § 103G.265, subd. 2. Modifies the criteria that must be met when the DNR approves a water use permit that involves a diversion of water of more than 2,000,000 gallons per day to a place outside the state or water basin of origin to require that the use is sustainable (instead of adequate to meet the basin's water resources needs during the life of the project). Removes the requirement that the diversions receive legislative approval.
- 2**      **Consumptive use of more than 2,000,000 gallons per day.** Amends § 103G.265, subd. 2. Modifies criteria that must be met when approving a water use permit that involves the consumption of more than 2,000,000 gallons of water per day to require that the use is sustainable (instead of adequate to meet the basin's water resources needs during the life of the consumptive use). Removes the requirement that the consumptive use receive legislative approval.
- 3**      **Applications for groundwater appropriations; preliminary well construction approval.** Amends § 103G.287, subd. 1. Requires the DNR to assess information submitted by a person proposing to drill a new well under the new requirements established in this bill and provide a preliminary approval letter to the person if the water appropriation is expected to meet applicable requirements.

**Section**

- 4**      **Sustainability standard.** Amends § 103G.287, subd. 5. Refers to the requirement that groundwater appropriation permits be allowed only when the use is “sustainable to supply the needs of future generations and the proposed use will not harm ecosystems, degrade water, or reduce water levels beyond the reach of public water supply and private domestic wells constructed according to Minnesota Rules, chapter 4725” as a “sustainability standard.”
  
- 5**      **Notification required.** Amends § 103I.205, subd. 1. Requires a person to submit certain information to the DNR prior to drilling a well that will need an appropriation permit and may begin construction after receiving preliminary approval from the commissioner.
  
- 6**      **Groundwater; environmental assessment worksheets.** Adds § 116D.04. Requires environmental assessment worksheets (EAWs) for projects with the potential to require a groundwater appropriation permit to identify all sources of water available for appropriation.