

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Poppe and Wagenius

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Analyst: Colbey Sullivan

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Overview

This bill would fund the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Board of Animal Health (BAH), and the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute (AURI) for the 2014-2015 biennium. The bill also includes statutory provisions related to new initiatives and modifications to laws that govern how MDA spends federal and agricultural promotion dollars.

Section

- 1 Summary of appropriations.** Summarizes total appropriations to MDA, BAH, and AURI, by year, by state treasury fund.
- 2 Agriculture appropriations.** Provides boilerplate omnibus appropriation language.
- 3 Department of Agriculture.** Appropriates funds for MDA's activities, as grouped into four categories.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Summarizes total MDA appropriations and the breakdown of that total by fund.

Subd. 2. Protection services. Appropriates general fund and remediation fund dollars for MDA's regulatory activities. This category includes the following MDA divisions – Pesticide and Fertilizer Management, Dairy and Food Inspection, Plant Protection, and Laboratory Services. The amounts specifically appropriated for certain activities are provided, along with varying levels of instruction and agency discretion.

Section

Subd. 3. Agricultural marketing and development. Appropriates general fund dollars to MDA's Agricultural Marketing and Development Division. The amounts specifically appropriated for certain activities are provided, along with varying levels of instruction and agency discretion.

Subd. 4. Bioenergy and value-added agriculture. Appropriates general fund dollars for the agricultural growth, research, and innovation program. Specifies requirements for any bioenergy grants awarded by MDA pursuant to this program.

Subd. 5. Administration and financial assistance. Appropriates general fund dollars for MDA's administration and financial assistance activities. Requires MDA to award pass-through grants to several named entities.

- 4 Board of animal health.** Appropriates general fund dollars to BAH. Specifies the amount appropriated for certain BAH activities.
- 5 Agricultural Utilization Research Institute.** Appropriates general fund dollars to AURI.
- 6 Cooperation with federal agencies.** Authorizes MDA to spend federal money according to applicable federal regulations and rate structures.
- 7 Promotional expenditures.** Authorizes MDA to spend agricultural marketing and promotional appropriations in the same manner as a private person or organization.
- 8 Commercial animal waste technician.** Modifies the commercial animal waste technician licensing program.

Subd. 1. Requirement. Creates separate license categories for applicators, site managers, and companies. Requires all persons and companies who apply manure or manage the application of manure to obtain a license (a person who manages or applies manure on their employer's land would still be exempt). Licensed applicators must be supervised by a licensed site manager.

Subd. 3. License. All licenses would be valid for one year, instead of the current three-year term. When a licensed applicator or manager applies or manages the application of manure, the company's license number would have to appear on the application equipment used.

Subd. 5. Renewal application. An applicant who meets license renewal requirements by taking a test instead of attending training workshops would be required to pay a fee established by MDA.

Subd. 7. Application fee. Fees would increase according to a new structure -- \$25/year for applicators, \$50/year for site managers, and \$100/year for companies. Late renewals would trigger a 50 percent penalty. A duplicate license would cost \$10.

- 9 Requirement.** Technical change corresponding to the previous section.