

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1100
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 11, 2013

Authors: Wagenius

Subject: Water Appropriation Permits

Analyst: Janelle Taylor

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/hrd.htm.

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).
- 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 exemptions from legislative approval requirements.
- 3** **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."

Section

- 4** **Groundwater; environmental assessment worksheets.** Adds § 116D.04. Requires environmental assessment worksheets (EAWs) for projects with the potential to require a water appropriation permit to identify all sources of water and assess whether the use will meet the applicable sustainability standard (see the previous section).