

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

This bill includes a number of technical and other policy changes related to the environment and natural resources, including removing obsolete language, eliminating reporting requirements, and modifying the soil and water conservation district consolidation process.

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- 1 **Pollution Control Agency.** Amends § 13.7411. Technical.
- 2 **Recreational vehicles and boats used for public purposes.** Amends § 84.025, subd. 10. Removes a requirement that all snowmobiles and outboard motors purchased by the DNR have four-stroke engines.
- 3 **Game warden duties; conservation officers.** Amends § 84.028, subd. 3. Technical.
- 4 **Directors.** Amends § 84.081, subd. 1. Removes the list of divisions the DNR is to be organized into and instead references the general authority of the commissioner to establish/abolish/revise divisions that is elsewhere in statute.
- 5 **Use of department resources.** Amends § 84.781. Technical.
- 6 **Permits.** Amends § 88.6435, subd. 1. Eliminates the commissioner's ability to reduce the annual fee by \$10 for bough buyer's who attend approved workshops/orientation sessions for balsam bough harvesters and buyers.
- 7 **Consolidation of districts.** Amends § 103C.211. Modifies the process used to consolidate soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) by removing the ability for districts to be

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divided under the petition process and removing the ability of residents to petition for a consolidation. Allows the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to make the determination on whether to consolidate the districts and appoint supervisors to fill vacancies resulting from the consolidation. Allows the districts to petition to have the consolidation reversed after two years.

- 8 **Supervisors elected at large.** Amends § 103C.11, subd. 1. Technical (related to SWCD consolidation process).
- 9 **Powers and duties.** Amends § 103C.401, subd. 1. Technical (related to SWCD consolidation process).
- 10 **Commissioner's duties.** Amends § 103F.135, subd. 1. Technical.
- 11 **Director.** Amends § 103G.005, subd. 9. Technical.
- 12 **Division.** Amends § 103G.005, subd. 9. Technical.
- 13 **Permit not issued until fees are paid.** Amends § 103G.315, subd. 12. Technical.
- 14 **Citizen monitoring of water quality.** Amends § 115.06, subd. 4. Eliminates a report requirement of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) that would have required, starting in 2017, a report on citizen water quality monitoring every four years.
- 15 **Termination of obligations; good faith effort.** Amends § 115A.54, subd. 4. Eliminates a report requirement of the PCA that reports on the defaults/terminations under the Solid Waste Processing Facilities Capital Assistance Program (CAP).
- 16 **Permitting efficiency.** Amends § 116.03, subd. 2b. Modifies the agency's permitting efficiency reporting requirements to make the report an annual report rather than a biannual report.
- 17 **Permits; solid waste facilities.** Amends § 116.07, subd. 4j. Removes permit application provisions no longer needed due to new permitting efficiency goals.
- 18 **Revisor's instruction.** Requires the revisor to update a statutory reference to reflect the repeal of section 103F.155 contained in the next section.
- 19 **Repealer.** Repeals: § 14.04 (state agency guidebook); § 84.083, subds. 3 and 4 (purchasing provisions related to obsolete DNR division); § 84.163 (obsolete language related to the conveyance of land to Todd County); § 84.361 (obsolete language related to land within Red Lake Game Preserve); § 84.43, § 84.45, § 84.46, § 84.47, § 84.48, § 84.49, § 84.50, § 84.51, § 84.52, and § 84.521 (obsolete provisions related wilderness areas (BWCA)); § 84.53 and § 84.55 (topographic state survey); § 84.965 (conservation corps); § 85.015 (Countryview Bicycle Trail in Ramsey and Washington Counties); § 103B.701 and § 103B.702 (Star Lake Board/Star Lakes); § 103F.131 and § 103F.155 (obsolete floodplain/flood protection provisions); § 103F.378 (Minnesota River Board); § 103F.381, § 103F.383, § 103F.387, § 103F.389, § 103F.391 (Minnesota River's Project Riverbend regarding county ordinances); § 103G.305 (30 day decision requirement on water use permits); § 115.445 (new wastewater

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treatment system permitting requirements); § 115B.412 (landfill cleanup reporting requirements); § 116.181 (corrective action grants to municipalities); § 116.182, subd. 3a. (wastewater treatment system project proposer requirements); § 116.195, subd. 5. (beneficial use of wastewater and storm water report); § 116.54 (obsolete language regarding pilot projects for the injection of oxygen into water/soil); § 116.90 (refused derived fuel); § 116C.712 (Nuclear Waste Council duties); § 116C.833 (Midwest Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Compact Commission report); and § 173.0845 (Star Lake or River signs).

Also repeals Laws 2010, ch. 215, art. 3, sec. 5, subd. 4. (\$310,000 general fund transfer from BWSR) and Laws 2013, ch. 114, art. 4, sec. 100 (wastewater treatment system project evaluation criteria).