HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 153   **DATE:** March 17, 2015
       Version: The delete everything amendment (H0153DE3)

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Overview

The H0153DE3 amendment would replace entirely the contents of HF 153, as introduced.

Section

1   **Urban agriculture development grants.** Establishes a new grant program through the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to provide financial and technical assistance to eligible cities, organizations, and individuals for specified purposes. Eligible cities are located in the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area or in the core county of a Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). According to the United States Office of Management and Budget, Minnesota MSAs other than Minneapolis-St. Paul are Duluth-Superior (St. Louis County), Fargo-Moorhead (Clay County), Grand Forks-East Grand Forks (Polk County), La-Crosse-Caledonia (Houston County), Mankato (Blue Earth), Rochester (Olmsted), and St. Cloud (Stearns) -- (OMB Bulletin No. 13-01).

2   **Loan criteria.** Modifies MDA's Shared Savings Loan program to specify that program loans may support urban agriculture development. Expands eligibility to organizations.

3   **Awarding of loans.** Requires that two residents practicing urban agriculture be part of the Shared Savings Loan Program application review panel.

4   **Appropriation.** Appropriates $3 million per year from the general fund for urban agriculture development grants under section 1. For the first half of each fiscal year, one third of the appropriation would be reserved for grants to cities, organizations, and individuals, respectively. In the second half of each fiscal year, remaining dollars would be available to any eligible entity.