

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: State Assumption of Section 404 Permit Program

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Overview

This bill would provide funding for a feasibility study regarding state assumption of the section 404 permit program under the federal Clean Water Act. Section 404 governs dredge and fill activities in certain waters and is currently administered in Minnesota by the United State Army Corps of Engineers. States may assume administration of the section 404 program provided certain conditions are met and the state receives approval by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Section

- 1 Appropriation; section 404 permit program feasibility study.** Appropriates an unspecified amount of money to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to study the feasibility of the state assuming administration of the section 404 permit program under the federal Clean Water Act. Requires the study to include certain elements, including cost estimates, potential efficiencies, and administrative changes needed. Establishes a steering committee to oversee the study and specifies the steering committee's membership. Requires the study to be submitted to the legislature by January 1, 2016.