

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee modified

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Overview

This bill changes the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Advisory Committee from a function of the Metropolitan Council in preparing council plans, to two advisory committees, policy and technical, given administrative support by the Metropolitan Council, and reporting to the Legislative Water Commission. It also suspends implementation of North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan Draft until the advisory committee has submitted its report to the Legislative Water Commission.

Section

1 Metropolitan area water supply planning activities; advisory committees.

Subd. 1. Planning activities. Changes the role of the Metropolitan Council in water planning from developing the plans to only providing administrative and staff support to the policy advisory committee and the technical advisory committee, as directed by the chair of the policy advisory committee. The chair is the executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Directs the technical advisory committee to develop the science-based information needed by the policy advisory committee. Directs the policy advisory committee to use the technical advisory committee's information to develop options to achieve and maintain long-term, sustainable water supply in the region.

Subd. 2. Policy advisory committee. Specifies the membership and provides for the executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources to chair the policy advisory committee.

Section

Subd. 2. [2a] Technical advisory committee. Establishes a technical advisory committee and specifies that the policy advisory committee appoints the technical advisory committee members.

Subd. 3. Reports to legislature. Provides for the policy advisory committee to report to the Legislative Water Commission by February 15, 2016. Strikes the council reporting requirements.

Effective the day after enactment.

- 2 North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan suspension.** Prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from implementing the groundwater appropriation permit changes proposed in the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area Plan Draft, or requiring communities to connect to a regional surface water source or otherwise expend resources to plan or prepare for regional surface water connection, until the Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy Advisory Committee's report is submitted as required under section 1.

Effective the day after enactment.