

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes procedures that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) must follow before purchasing land with public money. The procedures require public notice, a hearing, and agency response to comments and questions raised at the hearing or submitted in writing.

Section

1 Notice, hearing before purchasing land (DNR).

Subd. 1. Application. Provides that the section applies to purchase of real property in fee with public money. Requires the procedures in this section to be completed before DNR enters into a purchase agreement. States that this section does not allow DNR to disclose data that is not public (such as appraisal data under section 13.44, subd. 3).

Subd. 2. Notice. Requires notice of intent to purchase property at least 30 days, but not more than 60 days, before the public hearing. Specifies the means and recipients of the notice.

Subd. 3. Public hearing. Requires a public hearing in a convenient place in the county in which the property is located, or if none is available then in an adjacent county. Gives interested persons reasonable time to testify or ask questions. Provides for DNR to respond either at the hearing or later in the written response by the agency. Requires the hearing to be recorded and posted on the agency's Web site. Requires DNR to provide written responses to the comments and questions made.

Section

Effective July 1, 2016 and applies to purchase of real property with an appropriation enacted on or after that date.

- 2** **Notice, hearing before purchasing land (BWSR).** This section is the same as section 1 except that it applies to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and subdivision 1 states that it does not apply to acquisition of easements in order to make that clear, since most of BWSR's acquisitions are easements.