

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill extends the expiring Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force by two years, to June 30, 2018. It also modifies Task Force membership and requires MDA to address any yield differences between organic and conventional crop production in the organic status report that MDA submits to the Legislature every five years. Currently, state law requires the Task Force to advise the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and the University of Minnesota on policies and programs that will improve organic agriculture in Minnesota, including how available resources can most effectively be used for outreach, education, research, and technical assistance that meet the needs of the organic agriculture community.

The bill also requires MDA to consult the Task Force and recommend by February 1, 2017, how to expand organic agricultural production and processing in the state including, but not limited to, establishing dedicated organic agriculture zones.