

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This is the 2016 omnibus agriculture policy bill. All sections are effective August 1, 2016, unless otherwise provided (Minnesota Statutes, § 645.02).

Section

- 1 Pesticide application on golf courses.** Eliminates language requiring a licensed commercial or noncommercial applicator to have the appropriate use certification before applying pesticide to a golf course.
- 2 Violations; prohibited acts.** Eliminates MDA's ability to assess a fee when reinspecting a licensed food handler who violated certain food laws when the reinspection is required after an administrative meeting between MDA and the food handler.
- 3 Food; tolerances for added poisonous ingredients.** Corrects cross-references to food laws that were consolidated and modified in the 2012 omnibus agriculture policy bill. States that this statute applies to license-exempt sellers of cottage foods.
- 4 Organic agriculture; commissioner's duties.** Extends the existence of the Minnesota Organic Advisory Task Force by three years, to June 30, 2019. Directs MDA to demonstrate on-farm organic agriculture practices with other research and education institutions in addition to the University of Minnesota. Requires MDA to work closely with agricultural producer organizations and appropriate agencies to identify organic opportunities and needs and avoid duplication of state agency efforts. Eliminates a requirement that MDA work with the Minnesota Trade Office in the Department of Employment and Economic Development.
- 5 Expiration.** Extends the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act for two years, to June 30, 2018.

Section

Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.

- 6** **Farmer-lender mediation task force.** Requires MDA to convene a task force that will provide recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2017. Task force membership is provided.
- 7** **Farm safety initiative.** Requires MDA to report to the legislature by February 1, 2017, regarding specified farm safety topics. Requires MDA to compile an inventory of existing farm safety programs and resources by October 1, 2016. Requires MDA to promote this inventory to farm operators.
- 8** **Repealer.** Repeals a 2015 law that would have extended the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act by one year if the legislature did not meet in regular session during calendar year 2016.

Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.