HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

DATE:

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3231 Version: The delete everything amendment (H3231DE1)

April 4, 2016

Authors: Anderson, P., and others

Subject: Agriculture policy

Analyst: Colbey Sullivan

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This is the delete everything amendment for the 2016 omnibus agriculture policy bill. The delete everything amendment replaces the contents of H.F. 3231 with the sections below. 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.** Allows MDA to assess a fee when reinspecting a licensed food handler who violated certain food laws regardless of whether the reinspection follows 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.
- 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. Expands and modifies task force membership. Requires MDA's organic status report to

Section

address differences in yield between organic and conventional agriculture (MDA submits the status report to the legislature every five years, in years ending in zero or five).

5 Expiration. Extends the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act for two years.

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

- **6 Farmer-lender mediation task force.** Requires the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to convene a task force that will provide recommendations to the legislature by February 1, 2017. Task force membership is provided.
- 7 **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.