

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3888

DATE: April 12, 2016

Version: The delete-everything amendment (H3888DE1)

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Overview

This is the delete-everything amendment for the 2016 omnibus agriculture finance bill. The amendment appropriates supplemental money for the fiscal year 2016-2017 biennium to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) and includes several statutory additions and modifications.

Section

- 1 **Appropriations.** Provides boilerplate appropriation language.
- 2 **Department of Agriculture.** Appropriates supplemental general fund dollars for specified purposes.
 - Subdivision 1. Total appropriation.** Denotes the total supplemental appropriation to MDA.
 - Subd. 2. Animal health.** Appropriates onetime general fund dollars to MDA for grants to the University of Minnesota for specified projects involving the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.
 - Subd. 3. Farm safety.** Appropriates onetime general fund dollars for the Tractor Rollover Protection Pilot Program established in a subsequent section.
 - Subd. 4. Agriculture laboratory and emergency response.** Appropriates onetime general fund dollars for MDA laboratory equipment. Transfers money from the general fund to the new Agricultural Emergency Account established below.

Section

- 3** **Agricultural emergency account; appropriation.** Establishes a dedicated account in the agricultural fund. Money in the fund is appropriated to MDA for emergency response and preparedness pertaining to agricultural emergencies. Authorizes MDA to transfer account dollars to other agencies and the University of Minnesota. Requires an annual report.
- 4** **Eligible projects.** Provides that drinking water projects funded through the Agriculture Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Loan Program must 1) remediate the adverse environmental impacts or presence of contaminants in private drinking well water and 2) implement BMPs to achieve state and federal drinking water standards.
- 5** **Tractor rollover protection pilot grant program.** Creates a pilot program to subsidize at least 70 percent of a farmer’s documented cost to purchase, ship, and install an eligible rollover protective structure (ROPS) on a tractor built prior to 1987. This pilot program statute would expire on June 30, 2019. MDA would administer the ROPS program and minimize administrative costs by cooperating with the multi-state ROPS program coordinated by the New York Center for Agriculture Medicine and Health. Requires MDA to solicit nonstate funds for this new program.
- 6** **Registration application and gross sales fee.** Requires persons and companies that register nonagricultural pesticides with MDA to pay the gross sales fee only on that portion of their sales that exceed \$70,000. (The registration fee of \$350 would cover sales up to \$70,000 - $\$70k \times .005 = \350).
- 7** **Activities authorized.** Technical. Eliminates a reference to the NextGen Energy Board, which expired in 2015.
- 8** **Agriculture research, education, extension, and technology transfer grant program.** Provides that MDA is to award any AGREET dollars allocated for agriculture research, extension, and technology transfer to the University of Minnesota for use by any of the listed entities. Requires MDA and a representative of the University of Minnesota’s College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences (CFANS) to consult the advisory panel when awarding grants and removes the CFANS representative from the panel. Provides that advisory panel members from specific named organizations are to be appointed by their organization, not MDA.
- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 9** **Advanced biofuel.** Expands eligibility for the Advanced Biofuel Production Incentive Program to include producers of biobutanol, regardless of whether the biobutanol satisfies the federal and state definitions of an “advanced biofuel.”
- 10** **Biobased content.** Technical. Defines the term for purposes of MDA’s three bioeconomy grant programs (i.e., the Advanced Biofuel Production Incentive Program, the Renewable Chemical Production Incentive, and the Biomass Thermal Production Incentive). The identical, prior statutory definition for “biobased content” expired with the NextGen Energy Board statute in 2015.
- 11** **Biobased formulated product.** Technical. Same situation as the “biobased content” section above.

Section

- 12** **Biobutanol.** Technical. Same situation as the “biobased content” and “biobased formulated product” sections above.
- 13** **Biobutanol facility.** Technical. Same situation as the “biobased content,” “biobased formulated product,” and “biobutanol” sections above.
- 14** **Quarterly.** Defines the term for purposes of the grant cycles in MDA’s bioeconomy grant programs.
- 15** **Renewable chemical.** Technical. Eliminates a reference to an expired statute.
- 16** **Eligibility.** Converts annual production minimums and maximums that determine eligibility for MDA’s Advanced Biofuel Production Incentive Program to the corresponding quarterly values.
- 17** **Eligibility.** Eliminates a reference to an expired statute. Converts annual production minimums and maximums that determine eligibility for MDA’s Renewable Chemical Incentive Program to the corresponding quarterly values.
- 18** **Payments amounts; bonus; limits.** Technical. Fixes an error in the Biomass Thermal Production Incentive Program statute.
- 19** **Eligibility.** Converts annual production minimums and maximums that determine eligibility for MDA’s Biomass Thermal Production Incentive Program to the corresponding quarterly values.
- 20** **When prepared.** Technical. Updates the reference to the statutory definition of “biobutanol facility” in a statute that grants exemptions to the environmental assessment worksheet requirement for certain proposed projects.
- 21** **Agriculture, bioenergy, and bioproduct advancement.** Requires MDA to transfer dollars appropriated last session for agricultural rapid response under the AGREET program to the University of Minnesota Experiment Station. Requires MDA to transfer any remaining grant funds each year to the University of Minnesota for agricultural research, extension, and technology transfer. Extends into fiscal year 2017 the availability of dollars appropriated for AGREET in fiscal year 2016. Extends the availability of agricultural growth, research, and innovation grants by two years, to June 30, 2021. Extends into fiscal year 2017 the availability of dollars appropriated to MDA for food hub grants.
- Effective date: This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 22** **Avian influenza emergency response activities.** Reduces MDA’s 2015 appropriation for avian influenza emergency response. Expands the Board of Animal Health’s eligible uses of money appropriated in 2015 for avian influenza response to include any animal disease emergency and provides examples of eligible BAH activities.
- 23** **Transfer required.** Transfers a specific portion of a 2015 general fund appropriation for Rural Finance Authority disaster recovery loans back to the general fund.