House Research

Bill Summary -

File Number: H.F. 2212 **Date:** March 14, 2017

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Subject: Indemnification for landfill cleanup costs

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House File 2212 establishes conditions under which a person who is not an owner or operator of a mixed municipal solid waste landfill located in the city of Burnsville may enter into an agreement with the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) to be held harmless for (indemnified against) any legal responsibility for cleanup costs or natural resources damages.

Such an agreement can be entered into under the following circumstances:

- more than 15 years have passed since the PCA notified the owner or operator of the landfill whether cleanup or postclosure activities were completed;
- the owner or operator has not entered into an agreement with the PCA to, among other things, take additional actions to address environmental releases or potential releases from the landfill;
- the person waives all claims for environmental response costs against persons other than the owner or operator;
- the person provides the commissioner with copies of all applicable insurance policies with respect to the landfill; and
- the person enters into a binding agreement with the commissioner to take actions to preserve the
 person's rights under insurance policies, and to cooperate with the commissioner in asserting any
 claims under those policies.

Under the indemnification agreement, the commissioner agrees not to take legal or administrative action against the person, and to indemnify the person against claims or liability for all state and federal environmental response costs. A person under an indemnification agreement is also not liable for claims by others that the person should contribute to such costs, although the state may seek contributions from others on the person's behalf.

The bill also allows expenditures on behalf of indemnified persons to be made from the remediation fund.