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Overview

This bill contains the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 budget appropriations for the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), and other entities. It also contains a number of statutory and other changes related to the environment and natural resources.

Article 1: Environment and Natural Resources Appropriations

Overview

This article contains the fiscal year 2018 and 2019 appropriations for the PCA, DNR, BWSR, metropolitan area regional parks, Conservation Corps Minnesota, the Minnesota Zoo, the Science Museum, the school trust lands director, and Explore Minnesota Tourism.

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- 1 Environment and natural resources appropriations.** Technical.
- 2 Pollution Control Agency.** Appropriates \$93,016,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$92,666,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the PCA.

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- 3 **Natural Resources.** Appropriates \$273,845,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$273,398,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the DNR.
- 4 **Board of Water and Soil Resources.** Appropriates \$13,589,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to BWSR.
- 5 **Metropolitan Council.** Appropriates \$8,540,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to the Metropolitan Council for metropolitan area regional parks.
- 6 **Conservation Corps Minnesota.** Appropriates \$945,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 for Conservation Corps Minnesota.
- 7 **Zoological Board.** Appropriates \$8,910,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to the Minnesota Zoo.
- 8 **Science Museum of Minnesota.** Appropriates \$1,079,000 in fiscal years 2018 and 2019 to the Science Museum of Minnesota.
- 9 **Administration.** Appropriates \$800,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$300,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the commissioner of administration for the school trust lands director.
- 10 **Explore Minnesota Tourism.** Appropriates \$14,248,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$14,248,000 in fiscal year 2019 to Explore Minnesota Tourism.
- 11 **Administration.** Amends Laws 2016, ch. 189, art. 3, sec. 6. Extends the availability of a previous appropriation for the school trust lands director.

Article 2: Environment and Natural Resources Statutory Changes

Overview

This article contains a number of statutory and other provisions related to the environment and natural resources.

- 1 **Legal counsel.** Adds § 84.01, subd. 6. Allows the DNR to appoint attorneys or outside counsel to represent the department in certain title and mineral interest forfeiture actions.
- 2 **Permitting efficiency; public notice.** Amends § 84.027, subd. 14a. Requires the DNR to provide an individual tier 2 permit applicant with a schedule for issuing the permit upon request and, when public notice of a tier 2 draft permit is required, publish the notice within 150 days of receiving the completed application. Requires the DNR to provide a copy of the draft permit, upon request, to the applicant and consider comments from the applicant prior to publishing the public notice.
- 3 **Expediting costs; reimbursement.** Amends § 84.027, subd. 14b. Modifies provisions of the DNR's expedited permit review process available to permit applicants willing to pay to expedite the permitting process by expanding it to include the entire permitting process and requiring the DNR to provide cost estimates for the expedited process. Also requires the DNR and applicant to enter into a written agreement that includes recourse the applicant may take if the DNR fails to comply with the schedule and identify the staff assigned to work on

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the permit. States that the permit must not be issued until all fees are paid and that the DNR must refund any unobligated balance from the fees paid.

- 4 **Irrevocability, suspensions, or expirations of permits; environmental review.** Adds § 84.027, subd. 14c. Prohibits permits issued by the DNR from being terminated (except under certain conditions) in the event a bill appropriating money to the DNR for environmental review or permitting activities of the DNR is not passed (government shutdown). Also requires environmental review and permitting work on applications received prior to a shutdown to continue.
- 5 **Unadopted rules.** Adds § 84.0274, subd. 14d. Prohibits the commissioner of the DNR from seeking to implement in a permit or enforce a penalty based upon a department policy, guideline, bulletin, criterion, manual standard, interpretive statement or similar pronouncement if it has not gone through the rulemaking process. States that the commissioner has the burden of proving an action is not prohibited under existing provisions allowing the challenge of such items as unadopted rules.
- 6 **Exemptions.** Amends § 84.788, subd. 2. Exempts a person using a trail that is on the boundary of another state or country from licensing/registration requirements provided there are reciprocal agreements in place.
- 7 **Prohibitions on youthful operators.** Amends § 84.793, subd. 1. States that those six years of age but less than 16 year of age must possess a valid off-highway motorcycle (OHM) safety certificate in order to operate on public lands or waters.
- 8 **Application, issuance, issuing fee.** Amends § 84.82, subd. 2. Increases the fees that may be charged by registrars or the DNR for issuing snowmobile registrations to \$4.50 for renewal, duplicates, and replacements, and \$7 for new registrations or registration transfers. The current fee is \$2.
- 9 **Programs established.** Amends § 84.925, subd. 1. Requires a parent or guardian of a six through 10 year old to be present at the hands-on training portion of the ATV safety training program.
- 10 **Prohibition on youthful operators.** Amends § 84.9256, subd. 1. Increases the maximum engine size for ATVs that children 10 and 11 may ride on public lands and waters to 110cc for class 1 ATVs that have straddle-style seating or 170cc for class 1 ATVs with side-by-side style seating. Requires those under the age of 16 to be able to reach and control the steering wheel and foot controls of side-by-side style ATVs.
- 11 **Helmets and seat belts required.** Amends § 84.9256, subd. 2. Requires all persons under the age of 18 to wear a seat belt when riding in an ATV if one has been provided by the manufacturer.
- 12 **Standards.** Amends § 84.946, subd. 2. Adds projects to remove life safety hazards, including building code violations and structural defects, to the list of projects eligible for the DNR's natural resource asset preservation and replacement (NRAPR) program typically funded with bond funds.
- 13 **Priorities; report.** Adds § 84.946, subd. 4. Requires the commissioner to establish priorities for NRAPR projects and submit a report to the commissioner of management and budget by

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January 15 each year listing projects that have been paid for with money from NRAPR appropriations.

- 14 **Training and mentoring.** Amends § 84.992, subd. 3. Modifies the DNR's Minnesota Naturalist Corps program to allow "an interpretive" naturalist be a member to corps members (current law requires a state park naturalist).
- 15 **Uniform pin.** Amends § 84.992, subd. 4. Requires uniforms worn by Minnesota Naturalist Corps members to have a pin (rather than a patch, which is required under current law) that has the name of the corps and that the program is funded by the legacy amendment.
- 16 **Eligibility.** Amends § 84.992, subd. 5. Restricts eligibility of the program to participants in an approved college internship program (current law allows those with a postsecondary degree to enroll) and expands the fields of study to include culture history and interpretation.
- 17 **Corp member status.** Amends § 84.992, subd. 6. Exempts all Minnesota Naturalist Corps members from eligibility for unemployment benefits.
- 18 **Bait harvest from infested waters.** Amends § 84D.03, subd. 3. Prohibits bait intended for sale from being held in infested water unless authorized under a permit.
- 19 **Commercial fishing and turtle, frog, and crayfish harvesting restrictions in infested and noninfested waters.** Amends § 84D.03, subd. 4. Requires commercial fishing equipment used in infested waters to be tagged and used only in water bodies specified in the permit or license. Allows a permit to authorize DNR staff to remove tags after the gear is decontaminated. Under existing law, the equipment must be tagged and is not allowed to be used in any other waters.
- 20 **Classes.** Amends § 84D.04, subd. 1. Allows the commissioner to classify subspecies, genotypes, cultivars, hybrids, or genera of nonnative species as invasive species.
- 21 **Prohibited activities.** Amends § 84D.05, subd. 1. Allows a person to transport prohibited invasive species from riparian property to a legal disposal site at least 100 feet from any surface water, ditch or seasonally flooded land if being transported in a garbage truck.
- 22 **Lake Minnetonka pilot study.** Amends § 84D.108, subd. 2a. Expands and extends until December 1, 2019, a pilot project allowing service providers (dock installers, etc.) to return zebra mussel infested equipment back to Lake Minnetonka under a permit from the DNR.
- 23 **Gull Lake pilot study.** Adds § 84D.108, subd. 2b. Establishes a pilot project allowing the DNR to expand the Lake Minnetonka pilot study mentioned in the previous section to Gull Lake.
- 24 **Permit for invasive carp.** Adds § 84D.11, subd. 1a. Temporarily (until December 31, 2021) allows the DNR to issue a permit to its divisions to tag bighead, black, grass or silver carp for research or control and release them back into the waterbody they came from under the permit.
- 25 **Fort Ridgely Golf Course; golf carts.** Adds § 85.0507. Allows the use of golf carts at the Fort Ridgely Golf Course if it is operated by a nonstate entity (the DNR is required to work out an agreement with the city of Fairfax for operation of the golf course under section 126).

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- 26 Authority to establish.** Amends § 85.052, subd. 1. Clarifies and updates the types of facilities the DNR manages and provides a definition of “lodging.”
- 27 Fort Ridgely Golf Course.** Adds § 85.054, subd. 19. States that a state park permit or fee is not required for a person only using the golf course at Fort Ridgely State Park if it is operated by a nonstate entity (the DNR is required to work out an agreement with the city of Fairfax for operation of the golf course under section 126).
- 28 Fees.** Amends § 85.055, subd. 1. Increases state park permits, including a \$10 increase (to \$35) in the annual park permit fee and a \$2 increase (to \$7) in the daily permit.
- 29 Receipts, appropriation.** Amends § 85.22, subd. 2a. Expands the receipts collected by the DNR that are to be deposited in the state parks working capital account.
- 30 Designation.** Amends § 85.32, subd. 1. Adds to the list of state water trails and requires the commissioner to establish criteria and a process for designating future water trails.
- 31 Special use permits; fees.** Adds § 85.47. Clarifies that certain special use permit fees collected by the DNR are to be deposited in the natural resources fund.
- 32 General requirements.** Amends § 86B.313, subd. 1. Technical to conform with federal personal floatation (life jacket) requirements.
- 33 Lights.** Amends § 86B.511. Prohibits a person from using other lights when operation about that are not navigation lights, are visible on the exterior of the boat and that interfere with navigation lights or are red, green or blue. Provides an exemption for certain law enforcement activities and government-sanctioned public safety activities.
- 34 Allocation of funding.** Amends § 86B.701, subd. 3. Allows the DNR to reimburse expenses under certain watercraft safety grants if the expenditures are made on or after January 1, of the fiscal year the grant is made.
- 35 Prescribed burn.** Amends § 88.01, subd. 28. Modifies the definition of “prescribed burn” for purposes of certain forestry provisions. The modification was recommended by the DNR in a prescribed burning report required last session.
- 36 Auxiliary forest contracts; supplemental agreements.** Amends § 88.523. Removes a requirement that the attorney general approve auxiliary forest contracts.
- 37 Purchase agreements and penalties.** Amends § 89.39. Removes a requirement that the attorney general approve certain agreements for using DNR supplied planting stock on private land.
- 38 Affiliate.** Adds § 90.01, subd. 1a. Defines “affiliate” for purposes of certain timber provisions.
- 39 Permit holder.** Amends § 90.01, subd. 8. Modifies the definition of “permit holder” to accommodate the addition of “affiliate” (defined in the previous section).
- 40 Responsible bidder.** Amends § 90.01 12. Modifies the definition of “responsible bidder” to add an affiliate.

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- 41 Trespass on state lands.** Amends § 90.041, subd. 2. Removes a requirement that the DNR notify the attorney general about settled claims for casual or involuntary trespasses on state lands or timber.
- 42 Supervision of sales; bond.** Amends § 90.051. States that a DNR employee delegated to supervise state timber appraisals must be bonded in a form prescribed by the commissioner (not the attorney general as required currently).
- 43 Sale list and notice.** Amends § 90.101, subd. 2. Allows the DNR to post notice of timber sales on the internet rather than requiring them to be published in the newspaper as required under current law.
- 44 Auction sale procedure.** Amends § 90.14. States that a purchaser of state timber must use a form prescribed by the commissioner (not the attorney general as required currently) for purposes of purchasing a permit based on estimated appraised volume of timber.
- 45 Purchaser registration.** Amends § 90.145, subd. 2. Technical related to the addition of “affiliate” for purposes of timber provisions.
- 46 Issuance; expiration.** Amends § 90.151, subd.1. States that DNR must use a form prescribed by the commissioner (not the attorney general as required currently) for purposes of issuing timber permits.
- 47 Securing timber permits with cutting blocks.** Amends § 90.162. States that a purchaser of state timber must use a form prescribed by the commissioner (not the attorney general as required currently) for purposes of securing timber permits with cutting blocks.
- 48 Scaling agreement; weight measurement services; fees.** Amends § 90.252. States that certain agreements between the state and timber sale permittees or purchasers of cut products must be in a form prescribed by the commissioner (not the attorney general as required currently).
- 49 Administration and enforcement.** Amends § 93.47, subd. 4. Allows the DNR to allocate surplus wetland credits approved under a permit to mine on or after July 1, 1991, that are not otherwise deposited in a state wetland bank.
- 50 Commissioner’s review; hearing.** Amends § 93.481, subd. 2. Modifies provisions allowing the DNR’s decisions on permits to mine to be challenged to accommodate the new contested case procedures established in the next section.
- 51 Contested case.** Adds § 93.483.
- Subd. 1. Petition for contested case hearing.** Allows a person owning property adjacent to a proposed mining operation or a federal, state or local government having responsibilities identified in the application for the permit to mine to petition the DNR for a contested case hearing. The petition must be filed within 30 days of the application being deemed complete and filed.
- Subd. 2. Petition contents.** Lists the information required to be included in a petition for a contested case hearing.
- Subd. 3. Commissioner’s decision to hold hearing.** Specifies when the commissioner may grant a petition to hold a contested case hearing.

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Subd. 4. Hearing upon demand of applicant. Allows an applicant denied an application to file a demand for a contested case.

Subd. 5. Scope of hearing. Requires the scope of a contested case hearing to be identified by the commissioner and requires the commissioner to develop a proposed permit or permit conditions to inform the contested case. States that the final decision of the commissioner to grant or deny an application following a contested case constitutes a final order for purposes of appeals under the next section.

Subd. 6. Consistency with administrative rules. Requires the commissioner to construe the administrative procedures under existing rules for the issuance and appeal of permits to mine and, when conflicts with this section arise, this section controls.

- 52 Appeal.** Amends § 93.50. Modifies a provision governing the appeal of certain DNR decisions related to mining by limiting the appeal to “final” orders, rulings, and decisions and providing that the appeal would be filed with the Court of Appeals, rather than through a contested case proceeding.
- 53 Approval by commissioner.** Amends § 94.343, subd. 9. Allows the DNR to use title insurance when exchanging class A land and allows the commissioner (not the attorney general as provided under current law) to require landowners to submit an abstract of title and file an affidavit.
- 54 Approval of county attorney.** Amends § 94.344, subd. 9. Requires class B land exchange title opinions of county attorneys to be approved by the commissioner instead of the attorney general as currently required.
- 55 Protected wild animals.** Adds bats, snakes, salamanders, lizards and any species listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in Minnesota Rules to the definition of “protected wild animals.”
- 56 Rough fish.** Amends § 97A.015, subd. 43. Exempts rough fish that are listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern in Minnesota Rules from the definition of “rough fish.”
- 57 Small game.** Amends § 97A.015, subd. 45. Adds short-tailed and long-tailed weasels to the definition of “small game.”
- 58 Unprotected birds.** Amends § 97A.015, subd. 52. Removes blackbirds and magpies from the definition of “unprotected birds.”
- 59 Unprotected wild animals.** Amends § 97A.015, subd. 53. Modifies the definition of “unprotected wild animal” by removing weasels (added to the definition of small game in a previous section) and animals listed as endangered, threatened, or of special concern, and limiting gophers to only plains pocket gophers.
- 60 Reciprocal agreements on violations.** Amends § 97A.045, subd. 10. Removes the requirement that the attorney general approve certain reciprocal agreements with game and fish authorities in other states and the federal government.
- 61 Deer, bear, and lifetime licenses.** Amends § 97A.075, subd. 1. Removes a requirement that 50 cents from each deer license be deposited in the wolf management and monitoring

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account the July 1, of the year following the year the wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act.

- 62** **Portable stands.** Amends § 97A.137, subd. 5. Allows a person to leave up to two portable stands in a wildlife management area (WMA) overnight provided it has certain identification information on it.
- 63** **Duty of peace officers.** Amends § 97A.201, subd. 2. Removes county attorneys from a provision requiring them to enforce all game and fish laws (the next section clarifies their role).
- 64** **Prosecuting authority.** Adds § 97A.201, subd. 3. States that county attorneys are the primary prosecuting authority for violations of game and fish laws and other laws under the purview of the DNR. States that prosecution includes civil forfeiture actions and dedicates 30 percent of the net proceeds from sales of certain forfeited motor vehicles and boats to the prosecuting authority to supplement the authority's operating fund.
- 65** **Misdemeanor.** Amends § 97A.301, subd. 1. Clarifies when misdemeanor penalties for violations of the state's game and fish laws apply.
- 66** **Gross overlimits of wild animals; penalty.** Amends § 97A.338. States that the gross misdemeanor penalty applicable for certain game and fish law violations where the restitution value of the wild animals involved is over \$1,000, does not apply to threatened or endangered wild animals unless more than one animal is taken, possessed, or transported in violation of the game and fish laws.
- 67** **Seizure.** Amends § 97A.420, subd. 1. Lowers the threshold (from \$5,000 to \$1,000) when a person's game and fish license may be seized.
- 68** **Issuance after conviction; gross overlimits.** Amends § 97A.421, subd. 2a. Prohibits a person from obtaining a game or fish license or taking a wild animal for ten years following a game and fish law violation when the restitution value of the wild animals involved is \$2,000 or more. States that violations of game and fish laws involving a threatened or endangered wild animal do not result in license revocations unless more than one animal is taken.
- 69** **Scopes.** Amends § 97B.031, subd. 6. Allows anyone to use a scope on a muzzleloader during the muzzleloader deer hunting season. Currently, only a person 60 years of age or older or a person with a visual impairment with a special permit issued by the DNR may do so.
- 70** **Rules limiting use of lead shot prohibited.** Adds § 97B.032. Prohibits the DNR from adopting rules that would restrict the use of lead shot effective the day following final enactment.
- 71** **Elk management plan.** Amends § 97B.516. Modifies provisions restricting the DNR from managing increasing elk herds to apply only in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall and Beltrami counties.
- 72** **Owners and occupants may take certain animals.** Amends § 97B.655, subd. 1. Adds bats, snakes, salamanders, lizards and weasels to the list of animals that a person may take on land they own or occupy if they are causing damage and expands the provision to allow a person's agent to also take the animals listed.

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- 73 Walleye.** Amends § 97C.401, subd. 2. Removes a prohibition on possessing more than one northern pike longer than 30 inches.
- 74 Minnow retailers.** Amends § 97C.501, subd. 1. Provides an exemption from minnow retailer license requirements for licensed resorts that transport minnows purchased from minnow dealers directly to the resorts provided they keep detailed receipts and provide the receipts for inspection upon request.
- 75 Harvesting mussel shells.** Adds § 97C.701, subd. 7. Prohibits a person from harvesting live mussels and allows a person with an angling license (unless not required to have one) to take up to 24 whole shells or 48 shell halves of dead freshwater mussels from waters where angling is allowed. Prohibits the dead mussels taken from being purchased or sold.
- 76 Authority to issue penalty orders.** Amends § 103B.101, subd. 12a. Removes the administrative penalty order (APO) authority of counties and watershed districts for purposes of enforcing the buffer requirements.
- 77 Authority.** Amends § 103F.411, subd. 1. States that the model ordinance and rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for soil loss serve as a guide to local governments that have adopted a soil loss ordinance (current law states that it should serve as a guide to local governments generally).
- 78 Definitions.** Amends § 103F.48, subd. 1. Modifies the definition of “public waters” for purposes of the buffer law to apply only to waters on the public waters inventory prepared by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Makes changes to the definition of “with jurisdiction” to remove reference to BWSR making a determination that the county or watershed district has assumed jurisdiction and instead requiring the board to be notified and makes other changes to the definition to reflect the removal of the APO authority of counties and watershed districts in section 76.
- 79 Water resources riparian protection requirements on public waters and public drainage systems.** Amends § 103F.48, subd. 3. Modifies buffer requirements by applying the 50-foot average buffer requirement to public waters that have a shoreland classification, and the 16.5-foot buffer to public drainage systems and public waters that do not have a shoreland classification. Makes the deadline for both buffer requirements November 1, 2018 (current law requires those requiring a 50-foot buffer to be in place by November 1, 2017).
- 80 Corrective actions.** Amends § 103F.48, subd. 7. Prohibits enforcement of buffer requirements unless federal or state assistance is available to the landowner paying 100 percent of the cost to establish the buffers or other water resource protection measures approved by the board.
- 81 Constructed management facilities for storm water.** Adds § 103G.005, subd. 8a. Defines “constructed management facilities for storm water” for purposes of water law (the term is used in section 88 for purposes of exempting certain water use from water use permit requirements).
- 82 Greater than 80 percent area.** Amends § 103G.005, subd. 10b. Applies the greater than 80 percent area definition to wetland bank service areas. Greater than 80 percent areas are areas with more than 80 percent of their presettlement wetland acreage intact.

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- 83** **Less than 50 percent area.** Amends § 103G.005, subd. 10h. Applies the less than 50 percent area definition to wetland bank service areas. Less than 50 percent areas are areas that have less than 50 percent of their presettlement wetland acreage intact.
- 84** **Requirements.** Amends § 103G.222, subd. 1. Allows project-specific wetland replacement plans submitted as part of a permit to mine approved on or after July 1, 1991, to include surplus wetland credits to be allocated by the commissioner of natural resources to offset future mining related wetland impacts under any permits to mine held by the permittee, operator, assignee or affiliate. Requires the commissioner to notify the county where a wetland impact under a permit to mine is and the county where the mitigation site is proposed.
- 85** **Wetland replacement siting.** Amends § 103G.222, subd. 3. Prohibits wetland replacement occurring outside of a greater than 80 percent area from being replaced in a greater than 80 percent area. Removes a requirement that wetlands impacted in less than 50 percent areas be replaced in a less than 50 percent area. And uses wetland service areas rather than counties for purposes of defining areas for wetland replacement. Also allows the approval of wetland replacement sites identified as part of an adequate environmental impact statement (EIS) to be approved for replacement without further modification related to priority order, provided the plan is submitted within one year of the adequacy determination.
- 86** **Evaluation.** Amends § 103G.2242, subd. 3. Requires a member of the Technical Evaluation Panel (a panel of technical professionals from BWSR, local soil and water conservation districts, DNR, and local government charged with providing wetland determinations and other technical recommendations) to disclose, in writing, any financial interests in wetland banks or management responsibilities selling credits from publically owned wetland banks.
- 87** **Authority; orders.** Amends § 103G.2372, subd. 1. Requires the restoration orders recorded on deeds under existing authority to be removed if a court has ruled that there has not been a violation of the restoration or replacement order and prevents an order from being recorded if the court has ruled that there has not been a violation.
- 88** **Permit required.** Amends § 103G.271, subd. 1. Exempts the following from water use permit requirements: nonconsumptive diversion of surface waters from its natural channel for the production of hydroelectric or hydromechanical power structures in existence before July 1, 1937, or that are regulated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission; and use of storm water collected and used to reduce storm water runoff, treat storm water, or sustain groundwater supplies when extracted from constructed management facilities for storm water.
- 89** **Water-use permit processing fee.** Amends § 103G.271, subd. 6. States that the water use permit fee for a facility temporarily diverting water from its natural channel to produce hydroelectric or hydromechanical power may not exceed \$5,000 per year.
- 90** **Fees for past unpermitted appropriations.** Amends § 103G.271, subd. 6a. Allows the DNR to waive payment of fees for past unpermitted water use for a facility temporarily diverting water from its natural channel to produce hydroelectric or hydromechanical power.
- 91** **Transfer of permit.** Amends § 103G.271, subd. 7. Requires the DNR to transfer a water use permit to a new owner if requested.

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- 92 Management plans; economic impacts.** Adds § 103F.271, subd. 8. Requires the DNR to provide certain economic impact estimates when requiring a change in a water appropriation management plan.
- 93 Applications for groundwater appropriations; preliminary well construction approval.** Amends § 103G.287, subd. 1. Requires the DNR to include the requirements for obtaining a groundwater appropriation permit within preliminary well approval letters. Also requires the DNR to provide applicants denied or issued a groundwater appropriation permit that is reduced from the original request all the information that was used in making the determination on the permit.
- 94 Groundwater management areas.** Amends § 103G.287, subd. 4. Requires the DNR to provide certain economic impact estimates when making a change to a groundwater management area plan and requires strategies to address economic impacts in the plan.
- 95 Stipulation of low-water mark.** Amends § 103G.411. Removes a requirement that the attorney general approve written stipulation agreements between the DNR and riparian owners regarding actions on the location of an ordinary low-water mark.
- 96 Impaired waters list; public notice and process.** Adds § 114D.25, subd. 6. Requires the PCA to have a 60-day comment period following publication of a draft impaired water list required under the federal Clean Water Act. It also allows the draft to be challenged through contested case procedures under the Administrative Procedures Act and identifies criteria the draft may be challenged upon, including the agency's use of data that is more than five years old, the use of data that does not include data from within the last two years, or the use of data that does not reflect recent significant infrastructure investments and pollutant reductions.
- 97 Reviewing proposed agency actions.** Adds § 115.01. Adds certain proposed actions of the PCA as reviewable by an administrative law judge, including proposed actions related to water quality standards, water related permits, total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies, and rulemaking. Requires an administrative law judge to examine the administrative record without deference to the commissioner of the PCA and independently determine whether the proposed action is based on reliable scientific data and analyses and meets other criteria. Requires the Office of Administrative Hearings to convene an independent review panel under certain conditions and establishes a process for the review.
- 98 Notice requirements for publicly owned wastewater treatment facilities.** Adds § 115.542. Requires the PCA to provide a permit applicant for a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility with a copy of the draft permit and any fact sheets required at least 30 days prior to distribution and public notice of the permit application and preliminary determination. It also requires the PCA to have a public comment period of at least 60 days for these permits.
- 99 Allocation and recovery of costs.** Amends § 115B.41, subd. 1. Technical related to the next two sections governing the indemnification of certain responsible parties for purposes of the closed landfill program.
- 100 Closed landfill investment fund.** Amends § 115B.421. Adds costs incurred under agreements with persons indemnified under the next section to the list of eligible expenses that may be covered by the closed landfill investment fund.

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- 101 Indemnifying responsible persons.** Adds § 115B.431. 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 PCA to be held harmless for (indemnified against) any legal responsibility for cleanup costs or natural resources damages. 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.
- 102 General rule.** Amends § 115C.021, subd. 1. Technical related to the next section.
- 103 Heating fuel oil vendor.** Adds § 115C.021, subd. 5. States that a fuel oil vendor is not responsible for a heating fuel oil release at a residential location if the release was caused solely by the failure a fuel oil tank owned by the homeowner.
- 104 Permitting efficiency.** Amends § 116.03, subd. 2b. Requires the PCA to provide an individual tier 2 permit applicant with a schedule for issuing the permit upon request.
- 105 Draft permits; public notice.** Amends § 116.03, subd. 7. Requires the PCA, when public notice of a draft permit is required for individual tier 2 permits, to publish the public notice within 150 days of receiving the completed application. Requires the PCA to provide a copy of the draft permit to the applicant, upon request, and consider comments from the applicant prior to publishing the public notice.
- 106 Permit fees.** Amends § 116.07, subd. 4d. Modifies provisions of the PCA's expedited permit review process available to permit applicants willing to pay to expedite the permitting process by expanding it to include the entire permitting process and requiring the PCA to provide cost estimates for each task and a schedule for completing those tasks. Also requires the PCA and applicant to enter into a written agreement that includes recourse the applicant may take if the PCA fails to comply with the schedule and the staff assigned. States that the permit must not be issued until all fees are paid and that the PCA must refund any unobligated balance from the fees paid.
- 107 Irrevocability, suspensions, or expirations of permits; environmental review.** Adds § 116.07, subd. 13. Prohibits permits issued by the PCA from being terminated (except under certain conditions) in the event a bill appropriating money to the PCA for environmental review or permitting activities of the agency is not passed (government shutdown). Also requires environmental review and permitting work on applications received prior to a shutdown to continue.
- 108 Irrevocability, suspensions, or expirations of permits; environmental review.** Adds § 116.07, subd. 13. Prohibits permits issued by the PCA from being terminated (except under certain conditions) in the event a bill appropriating money to the PCA for environmental review or permitting activities of the agency is not passed (government shutdown). Also requires environmental review and permitting work on applications received prior to a shutdown to continue.

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- 109 Unadopted rules.** Adds § 116.07, subd. 14. Prohibits the commissioner of PCA from seeking to implement in a permit or enforce a penalty based upon an agency policy, guideline, bulletin, criterion, manual standard, interpretive statement or similar pronouncement if it has not gone through the rulemaking process. States that the commissioner has the burden of proving an action is not prohibited under existing provisions allowing the challenge of such items as unadopted rules.
- 110 Limitation regarding certain policies, guidelines, and other interpretive statements.** Adds § 116.07, subd. 15. Prohibits the PCA from implementing or enforcing an unadopted rule defined as a “guideline, bulletin, criterion, manual standard, interpretive statement, or similar pronouncement” that meets the definition of a rule but that has not been through the rulemaking process. States that when there is a challenge against the agency under this subdivision, the reviewing entity must independently and without deference to the agency determine whether the agency has violated this subdivision. Requires the PCA to adopt under the rulemaking process any guideline, bulletin, criterion, manual standard, interpretive statement, or similar pronouncement that it incorporates by reference in a rule, statute, or standard.
- 111 New open air swine basins.** Amends § 116.0714. Extends the prohibition against new open-air swine manure lagoons until June 30, 2022 (under current law, the prohibition will expire on June 30, 2017).
- 112 Membership.** Amends § 116C.03, subd. 2. Modifies the membership of the Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to remove the governor’s representative and expand the citizen membership to eight citizens (one from each congressional district) and requires the citizens to have expertise in environmental review or permitting.
- 113 Jurisdiction.** Amends § 116C.04, subd. 2. Removes certain duties of the EQB pertaining to interdepartmental investigations and environmental coordination.
- 114 When prepared.** Amends § 116D.04, subd. 2a. Requires all agencies having jurisdiction over a permit identified in a draft environmental impact statement (EIS) to accept and begin reviewing permit applications upon publication of the notice of preparation of the EIS.
- 115 Review.** Amends § 116D.04, subd. 10. Modifies a provision allowing to a person to petition the Court of Appeals on certain environmental review decisions (need for an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW), need for an EIS, or the adequacy of an EIS) by requiring the petition to be filed within 45 days of the responsible government unit making its decision. Under current law, the petition must be filed within 30 days of the party receiving the final decision and order of the responsible government unit.
- 116 Assessment.** Amends § 116D.045, subd. 1. Requires rules to be adopted to allow a project proposer to prepare a draft EIS for submission to the responsible government unit.
- 117 Trail or portage dedication.** Amends § 160.06. Makes provisions dedicating trails and portages between public or navigable waters used for 15 years or more applicable for canoe routes (not state water trails as stated in current law).

Section

- 118 General requirements and procedures.** Amends § 168.1295, subd. 1. Increases the minimum contribution amount required for the state parks and trails license plate from \$50 to \$60.
- 119 Computation of nonhighway use amounts.** Amends § 296A.18, subd. 6a. Changes the date (from June 1 to April 1) that gas tax revenues are transferred to the nonhighway use accounts.
- 120 Rules.** Amends Laws 2013, ch. 114, art. 4, sec. 105. Makes permissive, rather than mandatory, the requirement of the EQB and PCA to adopt rules related to silica sand projects.
- 121 Wild rice water quality standards.** Amends Laws 2015, First Special Session, ch. 4, art. 4, sect. 136. Delays the date that the PCA must adopt rules related to the wild rice water quality standard for sulfate by one year (from January 15, 2018, to January 15, 2019).
- 122 Prescribed burn requirements; report.** Amends Laws 2016, ch. 189, art. 3, sec. 46. Changes the requirement that the DNR develop criteria for prescribed burns under a general permit to criteria under an open burning permit. The change was recommended by the DNR in a prescribed burning report required last session.
- 123 Demolition debris landfill permitting.** Extends, by five years, existing class I demolition debris landfill facility solid waste permits issued by the PCA that are operating under certain guidance issued in August of 2005.
- 124 Environmental Quality Board membership transition.** Provides staggered appointment of new EQB members to accommodate the change in the membership of the EQB in a previous section.
- 125 Sand Dunes State Forest management; plan required.** Requires the DNR to develop a forest management plan for the Sand Dunes State Forest and requires the plan to be approved by the county board. Prohibits, for two years, further conversion of the land in the state forest to oak savanna. Also requires, for two years, that only native prairie seeds to be used, notification of prescribed burns, and other requirements. Requires the DNR to convey an easement to the township, if necessary, for 233rd Avenue.
- 126 Fort Ridgely State Park Golf Course.** Requires the DNR to work out an agreement with the city of Fairfax allowing the city to lease and operate the Fort Ridgely State Park Golf Course. Establishes requirements for the agreement.
- 127 Hill-Annex Mine State Park Management and Operation Plan.** Requires the DNR to work with the commissioner of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board and representatives from area local units of government to create an alternative operating model for local management and operation of the Hill-Annex Mine State Park until mining resumes on the property. Requires the commissioner to submit a report to the legislature by January 15, 2018.
- 128 Base budget report.** Requires the DNR and PCA to submit a base budget report to the legislature by October 15, 2018, and specifies the details to be included in the report.

Section

- 129** **Rulemaking; minnow licenses.** Requires the DNR to adopt rules to conform with the minnow dealer licensing provisions in section 74 and allows the use of the good cause exemption for these purposes.
- 130** **Cancellation of permits.** Cancels water use permits issued before July 1, 2017, for appropriation or use of storm water under certain conditions that are exempted from permit requirements under a new provision in section 88.
- 131** **Rulemaking; effluent limitation compliance.** Requires the PCA to amend agency rules to exempt certain municipal and industrial permit holders modifying or constructing a facility to comply with a new or modified effluent limitation from being required to make additional capital investment to comply with new effluent limits adopted after construction begins for at least 16 years. Provides a good cause exemption from rulemaking for these purposes.
- 132** **Repealer.** Repeals: § 84.026, subdivision 3 (contracting provisions of the DNR); § 97B.031, subd. 5 (muzzleloader disability permit no longer needed due to section 69); § § 97C.701, subd. 1a and subd. 6, 97C.705, and 97C.711 (provisions related to harvesting mussels no longer needed due to a new provision in section 75); § 116C.04, subd. 3 and subd. 4 (duties of the EQB); and Minnesota Rules parts 6258.0100; 6258.0200; 6258.0300; 6258.0400; 6258.0500; 112.29 6258.0600; 6258.0700, subparts 1, 4, and 5; 6258.0800; and 6258.0900 (rules related to harvesting mussels no longer needed due to the new provision in section 75).