

Subject Public ditch mowing and weed control

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## Overview

This bill modifies right-of-way mowing and maintenance restrictions and requires the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to develop and implement a performance-based pollinator habitat management plan

## Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Destruction of noxious weeds.</b></p> <p>Requires MnDOT and local road authorities to use integrated pest management methods that are minimally disruptive to pollinators when destroying noxious weeds. Requires road authorities to spot-treat weeds when treatment of the entire right-of-way is not warranted.</p>
2	<p><b>Mowing ditches; pollinator management.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Definitions.</b> Defines “integrated roadside vegetation management” to include the judicious use of herbicides, spot mowing, biological control, prescribed burning, and certain other ecologically sound vegetation management techniques. Defines “pollinator” by reference to an existing definition in state pesticide law which provides that pollinators are insects that pollinate flowers.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Applicability.</b> Requires MnDOT to comply with requirements in this section; encourages local road authorities (i.e., counties, municipalities, and other local government units) to comply.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Right-of-way mowing; maintenance.</b> Adds pollinators to the list of creatures to benefit from enhanced roadside habitat. Prohibits burning and haying except as provided by this section or to destroy noxious weeds under section 1. Authorizes mowing a swath the width of the mowing equipment once per year unless the road authority can demonstrate via a management plan that additional mowing is necessary for safety or maintenance. Prohibits mowing both sides of an entire right-of-way in the same year unless allowed under a management plan. Eliminates a 12-inch minimum vegetation height requirement.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Pollinator habitat management practices; right-of-way mapping.</b> Requires MnDOT to collaborate with other named agencies to establish</p>

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3	<p data-bbox="453 275 1421 373">pollinator habitat best management practices. Encourages road authorities, when feasible, to utilize low maintenance, native vegetation. Requires MnDOT to make pollinator habitat maps and management plans available online.</p> <p data-bbox="453 415 1421 583"><b>Subd. 5. Pollinator habitat management performance plan.</b> Requires MnDOT to develop and implement a performance-based pollinator habitat management plan for the trunk highway system that includes specified elements and performance targets. Requires MnDOT to submit this management plan and associated outcomes annually to specified legislative committees.</p> <p data-bbox="355 636 1421 745"><b>Appropriation; trunk highway rights-of-way management plan.</b> Appropriates an unspecified amount of onetime money from the Trunk Highway Fund to MnDOT to publicize trunk highway rights-of-way pollinator habitat management plans.</p>



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