

**Subject** Health risk limits; groundwater

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## Overview

The commissioner of health adopts rules establishing health risk limits for contaminants in groundwater, if monitoring results show the groundwater is being degraded. A health risk limit is defined as the concentration of one or more contaminants in groundwater that can be consumed with little or no risk to health. Health risk limits are used by other state agencies for water monitoring and risk management.

This bill modifies the risk assessment methods and quantitative estimates from which health risk limits for chemicals in groundwater must be derived, to allow the commissioner to use methods and estimates that are not published by the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) but that have undergone scientific review.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>Procedure.</b></p> <p>Amends § 103H.201, subd. 1. Modifies a provision authorizing the commissioner of health to adopt health risk limits for substances degrading groundwater by modifying the methods and estimates that may be used when determining the health risk limits. For systemic toxicants that are not carcinogens, allows the commissioner to use either: (1) EPA risk assessment methods; or (2) risk assessment methods that have been determined by the commissioner to have undergone scientific review. (Under current law the commissioner must use only EPA risk assessment methods). For toxicants that are known or probable carcinogens, allows the commissioner to use a quantitative estimate of a chemical's carcinogenic potency either: (1) published by the EPA; or (2) determined by the commissioner to have undergone scientific review. (Under current law the quantitative estimate must be both published by the EPA and determined by the commissioner to have undergone scientific review.)</p> |
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