

**Subject** Animal health  
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## Summary

This bill would increase the Board of Animal Health (BAH) from five to nine members, modify board member qualifications, and require the governor to appoint the executive director of the BAH.

Under current law, the five members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the Senate and must consist of three livestock producers and two practicing veterinarians. The board appoints the executive director.

In H.F. 1137, the governor would appoint two at-large members and seven who live in different congressional districts while achieving gender balance to the extent possible. Eligible board members would be knowledgeable in animal agriculture, animal health, or pets and companion animals, with at least two members who represent the public and are not employed in a related field. Senate confirmation would no longer be required.

Under current law and this bill, board members serve four-year terms and oversee the work of the BAH, which is a state agency of the same name that is charged by law with protecting the health of Minnesota livestock and other domestic animals.