

**Subject** Animal health  
**Authors** Hansen, R. and others  
**Analyst** Colbey Sullivan  
**Date** February 20, 2023

## Summary

This bill would increase the Board of Animal Health (BAH) from six to 11 members, modify board member qualifications, and require the governor to appoint the executive director of the BAH.

Under current law, the six board members are appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate and must consist of four livestock producers (one of whom is also a member of a federally recognized Tribe) and two practicing veterinarians. The board appoints the executive director.

H.F. 911 would eliminate the current quota for livestock producers and veterinarians. Instead, the governor would appoint two at-large members, one member of a federally recognized Tribe, and eight regional members 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.