

Subject Legislative Water Commission

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Summary

This bill would reinstate the Legislative Water Commission (LWC) with a sunset of July 1, 2028. The LWC expired July 1, 2019, and was a 12-member commission made up of six members from the house of representatives and six members from the senate. The commission was tasked with making recommendations to the legislature on water related legislation as well as reviewing water policy reports and recommendations from various state agencies.

The LWC was originally established in 2014. A similar commission, with ten members and similar duties, was established in 1989 along with the Groundwater Protection Act but was abolished in the 1990s.

The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) established the Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy (SMWP) following the expiration of the LWC in 2019 and tasked the subcommittee with similar duties to the LWC. The subcommittee has continued to be reauthorized, most recently in February of 2023 and is currently set to expire January 1, 2025, unless reauthorized by the LCC.