

Subject Groundwater Appropriations

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Overview

This bill would establish certain definitions impacting state water laws (chapter 103G) based on similar definitions included in a Department of Natural Resources (DNR) report from 2016 (*Report to the Minnesota State Legislature: Definitions and Thresholds for Negative Impacts to Surface Waters*). The bill would also modify a provision impacting the appropriation of groundwater when it impacts surface water by incorporating the new terms and making other changes.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Ecosystem harm. Defines “ecosystem harm” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G.
2	Negative impact to surface waters. Defines “negative impact to surface waters” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G.
3	Sustainable diversion limit. Defines “sustainable diversion limit” for purposes of Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103G.
4	Relationship to surface water resources. States that groundwater appropriations may be authorized only if they avoid known negative impacts to surface waters. Allows the DNR, if it is determined there will be negative impacts, to use a sustainable diversion limit or other methods, tools, or information to implement measures so that the appropriations do not negatively impact surface waters. Under current law, groundwater appropriations that will have negative impacts to surface waters are subject to certain provisions that apply to surface water appropriations.

Section	Description
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| 5 | <p>Revisor instruction.</p> <p>Instructs the Revisor to renumber subdivisions in the definitions section of chapter 103G and make necessary cross-reference changes to accommodate the new definitions added in sections 1 to 3.</p> |
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