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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3159

03/16/2016 Authored by Backer; Anderson, P.; Gunther and Miller

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; modifying definitions pertaining to buffer
1.3 requirements; amending Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 103F.48,
1.4 subdivision 1.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 103F.48, subdivision 1,
1.7 is amended to read:

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Definitions.** (a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms
1.9 have the meanings given them.

1.10 (b) "Board" means the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

1.11 (c) "Buffer" means an area consisting of perennial vegetation, excluding invasive
1.12 plants and noxious weeds, adjacent to all bodies of water within the state and that protects
1.13 the water resources of the state from runoff pollution; stabilizes soils, shores, and banks;
1.14 and protects or provides riparian corridors.

1.15 (d) "Buffer protection map" means buffer maps established and maintained by the
1.16 commissioner of natural resources.

1.17 (e) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources.

1.18 (f) "Executive director" means the executive director of the Board of Water and
1.19 Soil Resources.

1.20 (g) "Local water management authority" means a watershed district, metropolitan
1.21 water management organization, or county operating separately or jointly in its role as
1.22 local water management authority under chapter 103B or 103D.

2.1 (h) "Normal water level" means the level evidenced by the long-term presence of
2.2 surface water as indicated directly by hydrophytic plants or hydric soils or indirectly
2.3 determined via hydrological models or analysis.

2.4 (i) "Public waters" has the meaning given in section 103G.005, subdivision 15,
2.5 excluding clauses (9) and (11).