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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 747

02/04/2019 Authored by Claffin; Wolgamott; Carlson, L.; Wagenius; Fischer and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; establishing Council of Environment and Natural
1.3 Resources Scientific Advisers; appropriating money; proposing coding for new
1.4 law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116.

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

1.6 Section 1. [116.021] COUNCIL OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES
1.7 SCIENTIFIC ADVISERS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Establishment. The Council of Environment and Natural Resources
1.9 Scientific Advisers is established to provide guidance to the governor and other policy
1.10 makers, cross-agency scientific leadership, and scientific oversight of state agencies working
1.11 to protect the state's environment and natural resources.

1.12 Subd. 2. Membership. The council must be appointed by the governor and include one
1.13 member representing each of the state's congressional districts and two members appointed
1.14 at-large. The governor may not appoint a registered lobbyist to the council. In making
1.15 appointments, the governor must appoint at least:

1.16 (1) one member with expertise in biology;

1.17 (2) one member with expertise in ecology;

1.18 (3) one member with expertise in chemistry; and

1.19 (4) one member with expertise in hydrology.

1.20 Subd. 3. Terms; removal; vacancies; compensation. Except as provided in subdivision
1.21 4, members must be appointed to serve four-year staggered terms. Removal of members,
1.22 filling of vacancies, and compensation are as provided in section 15.059.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Initial appointments; convening authority; first meeting.** The governor  
2.2 must make appointments by January 2, 2020. In making initial appointments, the governor  
2.3 must designate half of the appointees, including the two at-large members, to serve a term  
2.4 ending January 3, 2022. The remaining appointees must serve an initial term ending January  
2.5 1, 2024. The first meeting of the council must be held before January 15, 2020. The governor  
2.6 must designate one member to convene and chair the first meeting. At its first meeting, the  
2.7 council must elect a chair from among its members.

2.8 Subd. 5. **Duties.** The council must:

2.9 (1) review the scientific methods, peer review process, and other aspects of the scientific  
2.10 work of the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of  
2.11 Health, Pollution Control Agency, and Board of Water and Soil Resources;

2.12 (2) initiate or recommend special studies where scientific research and analysis are  
2.13 relevant to evaluation of public policy options; and

2.14 (3) provide public policy counsel at the request of the governor, commissioners of state  
2.15 government, or the legislature.

2.16 Subd. 6. **Staff.** The Pollution Control Agency must provide staff and administrative  
2.17 support to the council.

2.18 Subd. 7. **Sunset.** The council expires January 1, 2026.

2.19 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.20 \$..... in fiscal year 2020 and \$..... in fiscal year 2021 are appropriated from the .... fund  
2.21 to the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency for the Council of Environment and  
2.22 Natural Resources Scientific Advisers established in Minnesota Statutes, section 116.021.