

SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 3915

(SENATE AUTHORS: KUNESH)

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OFFICIAL STATUS  
Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to agriculture; modifying pesticide provisions to protect wild-rice water;  
1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 18B.01, by adding a subdivision;  
1.4 18B.03, by adding a subdivision; 18B.04; 18B.045; 18B.063; 18B.305.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.01, is amended by adding a subdivision  
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 33. Wild-rice water. "Wild-rice water" means any body of water:

1.9 (1) identified as supporting or capable of supporting wild rice on any list, inventory, or  
1.10 map maintained by the Pollution Control Agency or the Department of Natural Resources;

1.11 (2) that lies within, or abuts and flows into, Indian country, as defined in United States  
1.12 Code, title 18, section 1151; or

1.13 (3) identified using the appropriation in Laws 2025, First Special Session chapter 1,  
1.14 article 2, section 2, subdivision 3, paragraph (z), as a water in which uncultivated wild rice  
1.15 grows.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.03, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
1.17 read:

1.18 Subd. 6. Wild-rice waters enforcement. The commissioner may take enforcement  
1.19 action under chapter 18D for a violation of this chapter or any rule adopted under this chapter  
1.20 that results in adverse effects to a wild-rice water. Violations that result in adverse effects  
1.21 to a wild-rice water are not minor violations for purposes of section 18D.301, subdivision

2.1 2. The commissioner must deposit any penalty collected under this subdivision in the  
2.2 pesticide regulatory account in section 18B.05.

2.3 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.04, is amended to read:

2.4 **18B.04 PESTICIDE IMPACT ON ENVIRONMENT.**

2.5 (a) The commissioner shall:

2.6 (1) determine the impact of pesticides on the environment, including the immediate and  
2.7 biocumulative impacts on sediment, soil, surface water, and groundwater, including wild-rice  
2.8 water, in this state;

2.9 (2) develop best management practices involving pesticide distribution, storage, handling,  
2.10 use, and disposal; and

2.11 (3) cooperate with and assist other state agencies; Minnesota Tribal governments, as  
2.12 defined in section 10.65; and local governments to protect public health, wild-rice waters,  
2.13 pollinators, and the environment from harmful exposure to pesticides.

2.14 (b) The commissioner may assemble a group of experts under section 16C.10, subdivision  
2.15 2, to consult in the investigation of pollinator deaths or illnesses or the pollution of wild-rice  
2.16 water. The group of experts may include representatives from local, state, and federal  
2.17 agencies; Minnesota Tribal governments; academia, including the University of Minnesota;  
2.18 the state pollinator bank; or other professionals as deemed necessary by the commissioner.  
2.19 The amount necessary for the purposes of this paragraph, not to exceed \$100,000 per fiscal  
2.20 year, is appropriated from the pesticide regulatory account in section 18B.05.

2.21 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.045, is amended to read:

2.22 **18B.045 PESTICIDE MANAGEMENT PLAN.**

2.23 Subdivision 1. **Development.** The commissioner shall develop a pesticide management  
2.24 plan for the prevention, evaluation, and mitigation of occurrences of pesticides or pesticide  
2.25 breakdown products in groundwaters and surface waters, including wild-rice waters, of the  
2.26 state. The pesticide management plan must include components promoting prevention,  
2.27 developing appropriate responses to the detection of pesticides or pesticide breakdown  
2.28 products in groundwater and surface waters, including wild-rice waters, and providing  
2.29 responses to reduce or eliminate continued pesticide movement to groundwater and surface  
2.30 water, including wild-rice water. By September 1 of each even-numbered year, the  
2.31 commissioner must submit a status report on the plan to the Environmental Quality Board  
2.32 and Minnesota Indian Affairs Council for review and then to the house of representatives

3.1 and senate committees with jurisdiction over the environment, natural resources, and  
3.2 agriculture.

3.3 Subd. 2. **Coordination.** The pesticide management plan shall be coordinated and  
3.4 developed with other state agency plans and with other state agencies through the  
3.5 Environmental Quality Board and with Minnesota Tribal governments, as defined in section  
3.6 10.65, and the Minnesota Indian Affairs Council. In addition, the University of Minnesota  
3.7 Extension Service, farm organizations, farmers, environmental organizations, ~~and~~ industry,  
3.8 and Minnesota Tribal governments shall be involved in the pesticide management plan  
3.9 development.

3.10 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.063, is amended to read:

3.11 **18B.063 STATE USES OF PESTICIDES AND NUTRIENTS.**

3.12 (a) The state shall use integrated pest management techniques in its management of  
3.13 public lands, including roadside rights-of-way, parks, and forests; and shall use planting  
3.14 regimes that minimize the need for pesticides and added nutrients.

3.15 (b) The state must take particular care to ensure that pesticides do not flow into wild-rice  
3.16 water.

3.17 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 18B.305, is amended to read:

3.18 **18B.305 PESTICIDE EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**

3.19 Subdivision 1. **Education and training.** (a) The commissioner, as the lead agency, shall  
3.20 develop, implement or approve, and evaluate, in consultation with University of Minnesota  
3.21 Extension, the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system, and other educational  
3.22 institutions, innovative educational and training programs addressing pesticide concerns  
3.23 including:

3.24 (1) water quality protection;

3.25 (2) endangered species protection;

3.26 (3) protection of wild-rice waters;

3.27 (4) minimizing pesticide residues in food and water;

3.28 ~~(4)~~ (5) worker protection and applicator safety;

3.29 ~~(5)~~ (6) chronic toxicity;

3.30 ~~(6)~~ (7) integrated pest management and pest resistance;

4.1 ~~(7)~~ (8) pesticide disposal;

4.2 ~~(8)~~ (9) pesticide drift;

4.3 ~~(9)~~ (10) relevant laws including pesticide labels and labeling and state and federal rules  
4.4 and regulations;

4.5 ~~(10)~~ (11) current science and technology updates; and

4.6 ~~(11)~~ (12) thresholds and guidance to reduce the impacts of insecticide on pollinators.

4.7 (b) The commissioner shall appoint educational planning committees, which must include  
4.8 representatives of industry ~~and~~, applicators, and Minnesota Tribal governments, as defined  
4.9 in section 10.65.

4.10 (c) Specific current regulatory concerns must be discussed and, if appropriate,  
4.11 incorporated into each training session. Relevant changes to pesticide product labels or  
4.12 labeling or state and federal rules and regulations may be included.

4.13 (d) The commissioner may approve programs from private industry, higher education  
4.14 institutions, and nonprofit organizations that meet minimum requirements for education,  
4.15 training, and certification.

4.16 Subd. 2. **Training manual and examination development.** The commissioner, in  
4.17 consultation with University of Minnesota Extension, Tribal colleges, and other higher  
4.18 education institutions, shall continually revise and update pesticide applicator training  
4.19 manuals and examinations. The manuals and examinations must be written to meet or exceed  
4.20 the minimum competency standards required by the United States Environmental Protection  
4.21 Agency and pertinent state specific information. Pesticide applicator training manuals and  
4.22 examinations must meet or exceed the competency standards in Code of Federal Regulations,  
4.23 title 40, part 171. Competency standards for training manuals and examinations must be  
4.24 published on the Department of Agriculture website. Questions in the examinations must  
4.25 be determined by the commissioner in consultation with other responsible agencies. Manuals  
4.26 and examinations must include pesticide management practices that discuss prevention of  
4.27 pesticide occurrence in groundwater and surface water of the state, including wild-rice  
4.28 waters, and economic thresholds and guidance for insecticide use.