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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2541

03/20/2025 Authored by Hansen, R., The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; abolishing the Board of Animal Health and transferring its
1.3 duties to the Department of Agriculture; establishing the Animal Health Advisory
1.4 Council; requiring a report; authorizing rulemaking; amending Minnesota Statutes
1.5 2024, section 35.01, by adding a subdivision; proposing coding for new law in
1.6 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 35; repealing Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 35.01,
1.7 subdivision 2; 35.02; 35.03.

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

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.01, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.10 to read:

1.11 Subd. 2a. Commissioner. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of agriculture.

1.12 Sec. 2. [35.025] ANIMAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL.

1.13 (a) The commissioner shall protect the health of Minnesota domestic animals and carry
1.14 out the provisions of this chapter. The commissioner shall make rules necessary to protect
1.15 the health of domestic animals. On or before November 1 of each year, the commissioner
1.16 shall publish an annual report. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory
1.17 is the official laboratory for the commissioner. At least quarterly, the director of the
1.18 Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory must report on the laboratory's activities.

1.19 (b) The commissioner must appoint eight members to the Animal Health Advisory
1.20 Council:

1.21 (1) three of whom are producers of livestock in the state;

1.22 (2) one of whom is a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota who
1.23 is experienced in animal husbandry;

2.1 (3) one of whom is an epidemiologist; and

2.2 (4) three of whom are practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota, one of whom
2.3 specializes in companion animals.

2.4 To the extent practicable, the governor's appointments must achieve gender and geographic
2.5 balance among the board membership.

2.6 (c) The Animal Health Advisory Council must advise the commissioner in the
2.7 administration of this chapter. The Animal Health Advisory Council shall meet at least
2.8 quarterly. Notwithstanding section 15.014, the Animal Health Advisory Council does not
2.9 expire.

2.10 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

2.11 Sec. 3. **ABOLISHED; BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH.**

2.12 The Board of Animal Health is abolished and its duties, as previously codified in
2.13 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.03, and is transferred to the commissioner pursuant to
2.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 15.039.

2.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

2.16 Sec. 4. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

2.17 The revisor of statutes must recodify the relevant sections in Minnesota Statutes, chapter
2.18 35, and Minnesota Rules, chapters 1700 to 1721, as necessary to conform with section 1.
2.19 The revisor must also change the responsible agency, remove obsolete language, and make
2.20 necessary cross-reference changes.

2.21 Sec. 5. **REPEALER.**

2.22 Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 35.01, subdivision 2; 35.02; and 35.03, are repealed.

2.23 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective January 1, 2026.

35.01 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 2. **Board; state board.** "Board" or "state board" means the Board of Animal Health.

35.02 BOARD OF ANIMAL HEALTH.

Subdivision 1. **Members; officers.** The board has seven members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, three of whom are producers of livestock in the state; one of whom is a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota who is experienced in animal husbandry; and three of whom are practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota, one of whom specializes in companion animals. To the extent practicable, the governor's appointments must achieve gender and geographic balance among the board membership. The commissioners of agriculture, natural resources, and health, the dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, and the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory of the University of Minnesota may serve as consultants to the board without vote. Appointments to fill unexpired terms must be made from the classes to which the retiring members belong. The board shall elect a president and a vice-president from among its members and a veterinarian licensed in Minnesota who is not a member to be its executive director for a term of one year and until a successor qualifies. The board shall set the duties of the director.

Subd. 2. **Terms; compensation; removal; vacancies.** The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the board are governed by section 15.0575.

35.03 POWERS, DUTIES, AND REPORTS.

The board shall protect the health of Minnesota domestic animals and carry out the provisions of this chapter. The board shall make rules necessary to protect the health of domestic animals. The board shall meet at least quarterly. Officers must be elected each April. On or before November 1 of each year the board shall publish an annual report. The University of Minnesota Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory is the official laboratory for the board. At least quarterly, the director of the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory must report on the laboratory's activities.