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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 3971

03/02/2020 Authored by Torkelson, Fischer, Heintzeman, Lippert and Haley
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Water Division
03/12/2020 Adoption of Report: Re-referred to the Committee on Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; reestablishing Advisory Council on Water Supply
1.3 Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities; appropriating money to improve
1.4 drinking water infrastructure; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 115.71,
1.5 subdivision 4; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 115.71, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 4. Council. "Council" means the ~~Water and Wastewater Treatment Operators~~
1.9 ~~Advisory Council~~ Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment
1.10 Facilities established by section ~~115.741~~ 115.742.

1.11 Sec. 2. [115.742] ADVISORY COUNCIL ON WATER SUPPLY SYSTEMS AND
1.12 WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITIES.

1.13 Subdivision 1. Purpose; membership. The Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems
1.14 and Wastewater Treatment Facilities advises the commissioners of health and the Pollution
1.15 Control Agency regarding classification of water supply systems and wastewater treatment
1.16 facilities; qualifications and competency evaluation of water supply system operators and
1.17 wastewater treatment facility operators; and additional laws, rules, and procedures that may
1.18 be desirable for regulating the operation of water supply systems and wastewater treatment
1.19 facilities. The advisory council is composed of 11 voting members, of whom:

1.20 (1) one member must be from the Department of Health, Division of Environmental
1.21 Health, appointed by the commissioner of health;

2.1 (2) one member must be from the Pollution Control Agency, appointed by the
 2.2 commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency;

2.3 (3) three members must be certified water supply system operators, appointed by the
 2.4 commissioner of health, one of whom must represent a nonmunicipal community water
 2.5 system or a nontransient noncommunity water system;

2.6 (4) three members must be certified wastewater treatment facility operators, appointed
 2.7 by the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency;

2.8 (5) one member must be a representative from an organization representing municipalities,
 2.9 appointed by the commissioner of health with the concurrence of the commissioner of the
 2.10 Pollution Control Agency; and

2.11 (6) two members must be members of the public who are not associated with water
 2.12 supply systems or wastewater treatment facilities, one appointed by the commissioner of
 2.13 health and one appointed by the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency.
 2.14 Consideration should be given to one of these members being a representative of academia
 2.15 knowledgeable in water or wastewater matters.

2.16 Subd. 2. **Members; geographic representation.** At least one of the water supply system
 2.17 operators and at least one of the wastewater treatment facility operators must be from outside
 2.18 the seven-county metropolitan area and one wastewater operator must come from the
 2.19 Metropolitan Council.

2.20 Subd. 3. **Terms; compensation.** The terms of the appointed members and the
 2.21 compensation and removal of all members are governed by section 15.059.

2.22 Subd. 4. **Officers.** When new members are appointed to the council, a chair must be
 2.23 elected at the next council meeting. The Department of Health representative serves as
 2.24 secretary of the council.

2.25 Sec. 3. **DRINKING WATER INFRASTRUCTURE; APPROPRIATIONS.**

2.26 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 2.27 of health, in cooperation with the Minnesota Rural Water Association and the Minnesota
 2.28 technical assistance program at the University of Minnesota, to accelerate and enhance
 2.29 cost-effectiveness plan reviews for drinking water facilities.

2.30 (b) \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 2.31 of health for grants to the Minnesota Rural Water Association and to the Minnesota technical
 2.32 assistance program at the University of Minnesota to provide assistance, training, tool

3.1 development, and technical assistance to facilitate adopting innovative best management
3.2 practices at drinking water facilities. Of this amount, \$..... is for a grant to the Minnesota
3.3 Rural Water Association and \$..... is for a grant to the Minnesota technical assistance
3.4 program at the University of Minnesota.

3.5 (c) \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.6 of health to provide grants to cities and other political subdivisions to develop and maintain
3.7 asset management plans for drinking water facilities.

3.8 (d) \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.9 of health to address public health risks related to public drinking water supplies by providing
3.10 a plan to assess, inventory, and provide a database of lead service lines and to provide grants
3.11 to public water suppliers to replace lead service lines.

3.12 (e) \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
3.13 of the Pollution Control Agency, in consultation with the commissioner of health, to identify
3.14 areas of the state where subsurface sewage treatment systems pose the most serious risk to
3.15 drinking water supplies and to address those risks by providing technical assistance, grants,
3.16 and other financial assistance to incentivize upgrades, replacements, and alternatives to
3.17 improve water quality.