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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 80

01/14/2021 Authored by Lippert; Hanson, J.; Sundin; Vang; Bahner and others
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; extending the mediation period for certain farmer-lender
1.3 mediations.

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

1.5 Section 1. FARMER-LENDER MEDIATION EXTENSIONS.

1.6 (a) The legislature finds that due to the emergency created by the COVID-19 pandemic,
1.7 the time period for the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act must be temporarily extended to
1.8 ensure an orderly process with state assistance to adjust agricultural indebtedness to preserve
1.9 the general welfare and fiscal integrity of the state.

1.10 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 583.26, subdivision 4, a creditor may
1.11 not begin or continue proceedings to enforce a debt subject to the Farmer-Lender Mediation
1.12 Act against agricultural property of the debtor under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 580 or
1.13 581, or Minnesota Statutes, sections 336.9-601 to 336.9-624, to terminate a contract for
1.14 deed to purchase agricultural property under Minnesota Statutes, section 559.21, or to
1.15 garnish, levy on, execute on, seize, or attach agricultural property until 150 days after the
1.16 date the debtor files a mediation request with the director of the Minnesota Extension Service.

1.17 (c) Any mediation proceeding being conducted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, chapter
1.18 583, and that is in progress on the effective date of this section is allowed an additional 60
1.19 days from the date the debtor filed a mediation request with the director of the Minnesota
1.20 Extension Service before a creditor can proceed to enforce a debt against the debtor's
1.21 agricultural property.

- 2.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment and
- 2.2 applies to (1) mediation proceedings in progress on the effective date of this section, and
- 2.3 (2) mediation proceedings beginning after the effective date of this section if the mediation
- 2.4 request is filed before ....., 2021.