

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 4331

(SENATE AUTHORS: EATON)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/28/2022	5656	Introduction and first reading Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance

1.1A bill for an act

1.2relating to water; establishing an Office of Water Policy; requiring reports;

1.3appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter

1.4103A.

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

1.6Section 1. **[103A.101] OFFICE OF WATER POLICY.**

1.7Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Office of Water Policy is established. The office

1.8consists of eight members appointed by the governor. One of the members must be selected

1.9by the governor to serve as the director of the Office of Water Policy. The member

1.10appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the senate.

1.11Subd. 2. **Office; administration.** The commissioner of administration must provide

1.12administrative services for the Office of Water Policy.

1.13Subd. 3. **Purpose.** The purpose of the Office of Water Policy is to provide research and

1.14analysis of policies and practices relating to groundwater and surface water use, protection,

1.15and enhancement.

1.16Subd. 4. **Duties.** The Office of Water Policy must:

1.17(1) develop improved methods for planning and assessing the water balance between

1.18major aquifer systems and between groundwater and surface water and share that information

1.19with state agencies, the legislature, and local governmental units;

1.20(2) propose methods for securing private and public drinking water supplies by:

1.21(i) developing a single assessment and management plan for public sources of drinking

1.22water;

2.1 (ii) assessing plans for additional testing of private drinking water wells; and

2.2 (iii) addressing elevated lead and other contaminant levels in drinking water sources, in
2.3 cooperation with the commissioners of health and natural resources, by reviewing and
2.4 updating acceptable levels of contamination;

2.5 (3) cooperate with state agencies, businesses, research labs, volunteer organizations,
2.6 and other interested parties to develop methods of predicting and responding to contaminants
2.7 of emerging concern and collecting toxicological data and laboratory findings useful for
2.8 accurate screening of water contaminants with the potential to harm humans or the ecological
2.9 balance;

2.10 (4) advise appropriate agencies, legislative committees, and public works projects of
2.11 emerging technologies that could be used to replace, strengthen, or enhance water policy
2.12 objectives or improve their practice; and

2.13 (5) review and offer assessment of current policies and practices relating to groundwater
2.14 and surface water use with attention to the sustainability of those programs and the
2.15 advisability of replacing or modifying those policies.

2.16 Subd. 5. **Powers.** The director of the Office of Water Policy may:

2.17 (1) direct and control money appropriated to the director;

2.18 (2) apply for, receive, and spend money for the purposes of this section;

2.19 (3) employ staff that the director considers necessary for the purposes of this section;

2.20 (4) enter into interdepartmental agreements with any other state agency; and

2.21 (5) enter into joint powers agreements under chapter 471.

2.22 Subd. 6. **Report.** By January 15 each year, the director of the Office of Water Policy
2.23 must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees
2.24 and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources on the office's
2.25 performance in achieving its purpose under this section and how money appropriated to the
2.26 office was expended.

2.27 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

2.28 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the clean water fund to the director of
2.29 the Office of Water Policy for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, section 103A.101.

2.30 (b) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the director of the
2.31 Office of Water Policy for the purposes of Minnesota Statutes, section 103A.101.