

Proposed Legislation- Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy 2021- Draft  
(Includes selected introduced bill language from the 2020 Session)

Details Available  
November 23, 2020

Bill 1: Water for the Future--Ensuring Water for the Environment and Economy (Water Quantity)

- HF3943: (Lippert, Fischer): SF4427 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, Eken): Policy on sustainability of Minnesota's groundwater and surface water. Response to the “Water Train” issue.
- HF3951 (Lippert, Fischer), SF3996 (Weber): Policy on groundwater recharge. Based on recommendations in the Freshwater/ UM report regarding the feasibility of artificial recharge.
- HF3968: (Heintzeman, Poston, Fischer); SF3957 (Wiger, Eaton): Water appropriation allocation priorities modified for golf courses.
- HF3942: (Lippert) SF4432 (Weber Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Develop a pilot plan to ensure safe and sustainable drinking water for the future by enhancing and leveraging County Geologic Atlas information.

Bill 2: Proposed Bill: Increased Water-Quality Protection

- HF3967: (Heintzeman, Brand, Fischer), SF3413 (Weber, Eaton, Wiger, Eken) Reducing chloride contamination in state waters--requires use-reduction implementation of chloride alternatives. Appropriating a small amount of funds to begin to begin implementation of the statewide chloride management plan.
- Policy for limiting liability for trained and certified salt applicators. HF 1502; SF 1667: Includes training, voluntary certification, record keeping and limited liability. Previous authors of similar bills: Hansen; Torkelson; Edelson ; Heintzem; Moller; Hausman; Bierma ; Xiong; Her; Bernardy; Jordan. Senate: Rudd, Anderson , Ingebrigtsen, Tomassoni, and Hall
- Proposed bill section: Reducing chloride contamination in state waters—banning future sales of water softeners that overuse salt.
- HF3969: (Poston, Fischer): SF 3995 (Weber): Requires water-quality standards revision to simplify and increase efficiency of processes to adopt and amend standards. Provides a report on methods for simplifying and increasing the process.
- HF3947: (Poston, Fischer: SF 3956 (Wiger, Eaton): Encourage pilot pollutant trading. Policy to allow a third-party water-quality broker system. Implementation funding to plan a program for beach monitoring

Bill 3: Agricultural Incentives for water quality and agricultural improvement

- SF 3950 (Wiger and Eaton), HF (?) Lippert and Fisher: Develop a Statewide Soil Health Action Plan
- HF3945 (Brand, Fischer, Lippert); SF 3961 (Wiger, Eken): Precision agriculture research and outreach—develop a plan
- HF 3946 (Lippert, Fischer, Brand): SF 3953 (Wiger, Eaton, Eken): Develop a plan for transferring monies from the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture for deposit in the agricultural and environmental revolving loan account

Bill 4: Drinking Water Safety

- HF3944 (Fischer), SF 3925 (Weber): Emerging Contaminant Monitoring PFAS: Develop a plan for a network to monitor unregulated contaminants in sources of drinking water.
- SF3955 (Wiger Eaton) HF (Heintzeman): Forever chemicals in food waste: Policy for acceptance of

- compostable products containing PFAS
- Testing private and domestic wells: The UM Future of drinking water report recommends a statutory requirement for well testing during the transfer of properties with wells. This would protect buyers and send a signal that the quality of water from private wells needs to be addressed. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 103I.235, subdivision 1, would be amended.

#### Bill 5: Improving Wastewater Treatment

- Flushable wipes--labeling or ban: Senate (Wiger, Eaton, Weber, Eken) House (Heintzeman, Fischer): No non-woven disposable product for sale in the state may be advertised, packaged, or labeled as flushable, septic safe, or sewer safe, unless it meets the definition set forth in subdivision 1 Similar bill in the Senate (SF3139)
- Determine the threats of Emerging Contaminants: Because many emerging contaminants are not fully addressed at the federal level, it is important to prioritize and manage them in order to make sound decisions about optimizing treatment between the source and the tap (UM report)

#### Bill 6: Water Retention--Keeping Water on the Land

- Encourage Water Retention--Pilot Program to Enhance Efforts to Keep Water on the land: Pilot Program to Enhance Efforts to Keep Water on the land (Senate interest: Wiger and Weber). This bill was put on hold in the House as per Fischer. Torkelson and Weber authored similar bill in the House and Senate.
- HF3948: (Fischer): SF 3954 (Wiger, Eaton): Appropriates money to study storm water retention and infiltration.

#### Bill 7: Improvements to Water Governance

- HF 1439 (Poston, Fischer): SF 4206 (Wiger, Draheim, Eaton, Goggin, Weber, Eken): Compensation for Ag Buffers: Creates an Agricultural Riparian Buffer Credit
- HF3971: (Torkelson, Fischer, Heintzeman), SF 3958 (Weber, Wiger Eaton, Eken): Reestablishes the Advisory Council on Water Supply Systems and Wastewater Treatment Facilities
- HF3941: (Torkelson, Lippert, Fischer, Heintzeman: Provides a plan to phase-out some of the Clean Water Fund (CWF) as funding source Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). Reduce SWCD grants from CWF in FY21 by \$3 million; require CWF to fund SWCDs at \$6 million in FY22 and \$3 million in FY23.
- SF 4007 (Eken, Wiger, Eaton) HF (Fischer) Evaluate Models for Assessing Best management Practices: Evaluation of water quality best management practices
- Legislative Water Commissions: This bill reestablishes the Legislative Water Commission (LWC) composed of six members of the House and six members of the Senate appointed by legislative leadership. The Legislative Coordinating Commission must provide staff and contract with consultants to support the work of the commission. The reestablishment date would be July 1, 2021.
- Policy: Improved Governance: UM report recommends the creation of a coordinating entity for drinking water issues. This could be accomplished by charging an interagency coordinating team to provide a plan and an annual report. The most appropriate group for taking on this responsibility would be the Interagency Coordinating Team, coordinated by the Minnesota Department of Health. A policy bill would charge the team with this responsibility.