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**Senate**

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**State of Minnesota**

**TO:** Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy Committee

**FROM:** Laura Paynter, Legislative Analyst

**DATE:** February 9, 2022

**RE:** History of Board of Animal Health Membership

At Senator Westrom's request, I prepared a summary of the statute history of membership of the Board of Animal Health.

In 1903, the Legislature established "The State Live Stock Sanitary Board," which was renamed the Board of Animal Health in 1980. At its establishment, there were five members, three who were "financially interested in the breeding and maintenance of live stock" and two who were "competent and qualified veterinary surgeons who are graduates of some regularly organized and recognized veterinary colleges practicing in the State of Minnesota." In 1913, the law changed so that one of the three producers would be "selected and recommended by the Minnesota Live Stock Breeders' Association," and the language describing the veterinarians changed to "practicing veterinarians and graduates of a regularly organized and recognized veterinary college." In 1959, the language describing producers eliminated the Breeders' Association, and read "Three shall be persons engaged in the production of livestock in the state." The law changed again in 1980, when veterinarians were now required to be licensed.

The 1985 revisor's bill sought language simplification without changing the meaning. These changes described the membership as "three of whom are producers of livestock in the state, and two of whom are practicing veterinarians licensed in Minnesota." This is substantially the language that exists in statute today. However, in 2021, the Legislature expanded the Board to six members, adding another livestock producer member to the Board, and specifying that the member also be "a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota."