

Minnesota State Senate

Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development Committee
Friday, March 21, 2025
10:30 AM, 1150 Minnesota Senate Bldg.

Minutes

Present: Senator Aric Putnam - **Chair**, Senator Robert J. Kupec - **Vice Chair**, Senator Bruce D. Anderson, Senator Gary H. Dahms, Senator Heather Gustafson, Senator Mary K. Kunesh, Senator Judy Seeberger

Absent: Senator Torrey N. Westrom - **Ranking Minority Member**, Senator Gene Dornink

Senator Aric Putnam called the meeting to order at 10:38am. Committee recessed at 12:41pm. Committee reconvened at 12:59pm.

Call to Order:

S.F. 1172: Senator Kupec: Agricultural growth, research, and innovation program account creation in the agricultural fund authorization; appropriating money.

Testifiers: Gary Wertish – President, Minnesota Farmers Union, Andrea Vaubel – Assistant Commissioner, MDA

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1172, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1706: Senator Kupec: Human services data and veterans data provisions modifications *(Pending Committee Referral)*.

No testifiers

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 1706, be recommended to pass and re-referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1183: Senator Gustafson: Nitrate private well mitigation appropriation.

Testifiers: Jay Eidsness – Senior Staff Attorney, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, David Henrich – Legislative Chair, Minnesota Watter Well Association

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 1183, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1428: Senator Weber: Beginning farmer tax credits eligibility expansion provision.

Testifiers: Hunter Pederson – Public Policy Specialist, MN Farm Bureau

Senator Kupec moves A-1 amendment. Amendment is adopted.

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 1428, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Taxes Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1419: Senator Putnam: Agricultural assets owners available credit cap elimination provision.

*** Gavel changes to Senator Kupec***

Testifiers: Brad Kluver – Family Farmer, Northfield, Tessa Sadae Parks – WT Farms, Northfield, Jenny Heck – MDA

Senator Kupec moved that S.F. 1419, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1540: Senator Putnam: Board of Animal Health appropriation.

Testifiers: Hunter Pederson – Public Policy Specialist, MN Farm Bureau, Bruce Kleven – Minnesota Turkey Growers Association and North Central Poultry Association

Senator Kupec moved that S.F. 1540, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2259: Senator Kunesh: Native American United States Veterans memorial appropriation.

*** Gavel changes to Senator Putnam***

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 2259, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the State and Local Government Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2430: Senator Kunesh: Local food purchasing assistance program appropriation.

Testifiers: Jane Windsberger – GEDEF Organic Farm, Minnesota Farmers Union, Andrea Vaubel – Deputy Commissioner, MDA, Amanda Nigon-Crowley – Executive Director, Village Agricultural Cooperative

Senator Putnam moves A-1 amendment. Amendment is adopted

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 2430, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 239: Senator Draheim: Cell-cultured meat and cell-cultured poultry definition.

Testifiers: Kaitlyn Root – Executive Director, Minnesota Cattlemen’s Association, Tessa Sadae Parks – WT Farms, Northfield, Daniel Gertner – Lead Economic and Industry Analyst, the Good Food Institute, Thom Petersen – Commissioner of the Department of Agriculture

Senator Kupec moved the A-1 amendment . A-1 Amendment is adopted

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 239, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 1029: Senator Westlin: Board of Animal Health commercial dog and cat breeder data collection classification modification, kennel and dealer advertising requirements modifications, and certain kennel, dealer and commercial breeder information posting requirement by the Board of Animal Health provision.

Testifiers: Kimberly LaBo – Public Policy Specialist, Animal Human Society, Andrew William – Board Secretary, Ruff Start Rescue (remote), Elaine Hanson – MN Pet Breeders Association

Senator Kupec moved the A-1 amendment. A-1 amendment is adopted.

Senator Gustafson moved that S.F. 1029, as amended, recommended to pass and re-referred to the Judiciary and Public Safety Committee. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2788: Senator Dahms: Restricted pesticide handler definition addition provision and restricted pesticide license requirements for handlers modifications.

Testifiers: Bruce Kleven – Agricultural Groups

Senator Kupec moves the A-2 amendment. A-2 amendment is adopted.

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 2788, as amended, laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

S.F. 2045: Senator Rest: Equal Access to Broadband Act establishment provision.

Testifiers: Michael Bradley – Partner, Bradley Werner LLC, Dave Callister – City Manager, Plymouth, Melissa Wolf – Executive Director, MN Cable Association, Brent Christensen – President, Minnesota Telecom Alliance (virtual)

Senator Putnam moved that S.F. 2045, be laid over for possible inclusion in the omnibus bill. - **MOTION PREVAILED.**

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 1:21pm



Senator Eric Putnam, Chair



Keely Spens, Legislative Assistant