

1.1 **Senator Hawj from the Committee on Environment, Climate, and Legacy, to which**
1.2 **was referred**

1.3 **S.F. No. 570:** A bill for an act relating to environment; improving efficiency of Wetland
1.4 Conservation Act determinations; modifying permitting efficiency reporting requirements;
1.5 improving the efficiency of the environmental and resource management permit application
1.6 process; requiring the Pollution Control Agency to issue separate permits for the construction
1.7 and operation of certain facilities; modifying the expedited permitting process of the Pollution
1.8 Control Agency; requiring petitioners for environmental assessment worksheets to reside
1.9 in the affected or adjoining counties; eliminating scoping environmental assessment
1.10 worksheet requirements for projects requiring an environmental impact statement; requiring
1.11 modification of the state implementation plan; requiring reports; appropriating money;
1.12 amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, sections 15.99, subdivision 3; 116.03, subdivision 2b;
1.13 116.07, subdivisions 4a, 4d; 116D.04, subdivision 2a; 116J.035, by adding a subdivision.

1.14 Reports the same back with the recommendation that the bill be amended as follows:

1.15 Page 1, delete section 1

1.16 Page 2, line 32, after the period, insert "Goals established in this paragraph do not apply
1.17 to permit applications required due to agency enforcement actions."

1.18 Page 3, line 1, reinstate "an annual" and delete "semiannual"

1.19 Page 3, line 2, reinstate "report" and delete "reports" and reinstate "includes" and delete
1.20 "include"

1.21 Page 3, line 3, reinstate "report" and delete "reports"

1.22 Page 3, line 5, delete "February" and insert "October 1"

1.23 Page 3, line 6, delete "1 and" and strike "August 1" and delete everything after the period

1.24 Page 3, delete lines 7 and 8

1.25 Page 3, line 9, delete everything before "report" and insert "The"

1.26 Page 3, line 34, strike "whether the application is complete or incomplete."

1.27 Page 4, line 1, delete the new language

1.28 Page 4, line 2, delete the new language and strike "enumerate" and insert "of"

1.29 Page 4, line 3, reinstate the stricken "and" and before "advise" insert "must"

1.30 Page 4, line 4, reinstate the period and delete the new language

1.31 Page 4, delete lines 5 to 7

1.32 Page 4, line 8, delete the new language and insert "The applicant shall have five business
1.33 days to remedy all identified deficiencies before the commissioner determines that the
1.34 application is complete or incomplete."

- 2.1 Page 4, line 9, strike "notice" and insert "commissioner"
- 2.2 Page 4, lines 10, 11, and 16 to 18, delete the new language
- 2.3 Page 6, delete lines 5 to 14
- 2.4 Page 6, line 21, delete "must" and insert "may"
- 2.5 Page 6, line 22, after "operation" insert ", except for a facility required to complete a
2.6 mandatory environmental impact statement under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4400"
- 2.7 Page 6, line 23, delete "issue" and insert "prioritize"
- 2.8 Page 6, line 24, after "facility" insert "while complying with state and federal
2.9 requirements"
- 2.10 Page 9, line 33, delete "to pay"
- 2.11 Page 11, line 26, after "a" insert "Minnesota"
- 2.12 Pages 14 to 15, delete sections 6 and 7 and insert:
- 2.13 "Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 116D.04, subdivision 2b, is amended to read:
- 2.14 Subd. 2b. **Project prerequisites.** (a) If an environmental assessment worksheet or an
2.15 environmental impact statement is required for a governmental action under subdivision
2.16 2a, a project may not be started and a final governmental decision may not be made to grant
2.17 a permit, approve a project, or begin a project, until:
- 2.18 (1) a petition for an environmental assessment worksheet is dismissed;
- 2.19 (2) a negative declaration has been issued on the need for an environmental impact
2.20 statement;
- 2.21 (3) the environmental impact statement has been determined adequate; or
- 2.22 (4) a variance has been granted from making an environmental impact statement by the
2.23 environmental quality board.
- 2.24 (b) Nothing in this subdivision precludes a local unit of government from beginning to
2.25 review a feedlot permit application for a feedlot subject to environmental review under this
2.26 chapter.

3.1 Sec. 6. **SCOPING ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT WORKSHEET NOT**
 3.2 **REQUIRED FOR PROJECTS THAT REQUIRE A MANDATORY**
 3.3 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT.**

3.4 (a) The Environmental Quality Board must amend Minnesota Rules, part 4410.2100, as
 3.5 follows:

3.6 (1) to provide that an environmental assessment worksheet does not need to be prepared
 3.7 for a project that falls within a mandatory environmental impact statement category under
 3.8 Minnesota Rules, part 4410.4400, or other applicable law; and

3.9 (2) to provide that a scoping process undertaken under Minnesota Rules, part 4410.2100,
 3.10 must be completed no later than 280 days after the process begins.

3.11 (b) The board may use the good cause exemption under Minnesota Statutes, section
 3.12 14.388, subdivision 1, clause (3), to adopt rules under this section, and Minnesota Statutes,
 3.13 section 14.386, does not apply except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388."

3.14 Page 16, line 5, delete "(a)"

3.15 Page 16, line 7, after "plan" insert "if changes are needed"

3.16 Page 16, delete lines 9 to 13

3.17 Page 16, after line 21, insert

3.18 "Sec. 9. **REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY TO EXTEND TIMELINE FOR**
 3.19 **CERTAIN AGENCY ACTIONS.**

3.20 By October 1, 2027, the Board of Water and Soil Resources must report to the chairs
 3.21 and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over
 3.22 environment and natural resources policy on the number of extensions under Minnesota
 3.23 Statutes, section 15.99, subdivision 3, paragraph (f), that are made for any determination
 3.24 under Minnesota Statutes, sections 103G.221 to 103G.2375, between July 1, 2025, and June
 3.25 30, 2027. A local government unit must supply the board with information necessary to
 3.26 prepare the report required by this section.

3.27 Sec. 10. **APPROPRIATION; MINNESOTA BUSINESS FIRST STOP.**

3.28 \$325,000 in fiscal year 2026 and \$325,000 in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the
 3.29 general fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for the
 3.30 Minnesota Business First Stop program."

3.31 Renumber the sections in sequence

- 4.1Amend the title as follows:
- 4.2Page 1, line 2, delete everything after the semicolon
- 4.3Page 1, line 3, delete "determinations;"
- 4.4Page 1, line 8, after the semicolon, insert "authorizing local governments to begin
- 4.5reviewing feedlot permit applications before environmental review is complete;"
- 4.6Amend the title numbers accordingly
- 4.7And when so amended the bill do pass and be re-referred to the Committee on State and
- 4.8Local Government. Amendments adopted. Report adopted.
- 4.9


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- 4.10(Committee Chair)
- 4.11April 4, 2025.....
- 4.12(Date of Committee recommendation)