

July 2015

**2015 Legislation Relating to
Local and Metropolitan
Government**

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Government**

This report describes legislation enacted in the 2015 regular session and first special session relating to local and metropolitan government.

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Introduction

This report describes legislation enacted in the 2015 regular and first special sessions that deals with local and metropolitan government powers, duties, and finance. This report does *not* cover all legislation that affects local governments. With a few exceptions, it does not cover civil or criminal law, employment or pensions, health and human services, transportation, economic development, or environmental issues.

All the citations in this report are to [Laws 2015](#), unless otherwise indicated. See the acts or act summaries of the omnibus bills, and other major bills, enacted in 2015 for other provisions that may affect local government and are not covered in this report:

Agriculture Policy	Chapter 44
Agriculture, Environment and Natural Resources	1st special session, chapter 4
Capital Investment	1st special session, chapter 5
Education – K-12	1st special session, chapter 3
Elections.....	Chapter 70
Health and Human Services Finance	Chapter 71
Higher Education Finance.....	Chapter 69
Human Services Policy	Chapter 78
Jobs, Economic Development and Energy	1st special session, chapter 1
Legacy Amendment Appropriations.....	1st special session, chapter 2
Liquor.....	Chapter 9
Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations	Chapter 76
Pensions and Retirement.....	Chapter 68
Public Safety, Corrections, Judiciary Finance	Chapter 65
State Government Finance	Chapter 77
State Lands.....	Chapter 25
Transportation.....	Chapter 75

Acts are available on the Revisor of Statutes website (<https://www.revisor.mn.gov/laws/>). Act summaries are available on the House Research website (<http://www.house.mn/hrd/actsum.aspx>).

Local Government Generally

Powers, Duties, State Funding, and Regulation

Liquor Laws

A local licensing authority may issue a microdistillery a license for off-sale of distilled spirits. The license may allow the sale of one 375-milliliter bottle per customer per day of product manufactured on-site as long as the off-sale hours of sale conform to hours of sale for retail off-sale licensees in the licensing municipality, and no brand is sold at the microdistillery unless it is also available for distribution by wholesalers.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 1, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.22, by adding subd. 3, effective May 2, 2015.

A local licensing authority may allow small brewers to sell 750-milliliter bottles and 64-ounce growlers on Sundays.

Ch. 9, art. 2, §§ 2 and 3, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.301, subds. 6d and 7, effective May 2, 2015.

A municipality (home rule charter or statutory city, or county) may issue a temporary on-sale license to a microdistillery in connection with a social event within the municipality sponsored by the microdistillery.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 5, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 10, effective August 1, 2015.

A person may use a valid instructional permit as proof of age for alcohol purchases.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 6, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.503, subd. 6, effective July 1, 2015.

Establishments with on-sale liquor licenses may sell beginning at 8:00 a.m. on Sundays, instead of 10:00 a.m.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 7, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.504, subd. 3, effective May 2, 2015.

Professional Engineering Licenses

The state or a local government can only require a licensed professional engineer to get an additional license, certification, or other approval for a skill or service if a law, rule, or local ordinance has determined it is needed to safeguard life, health, or property, or to promote public welfare. In all cases, the state or local governmental unit may include additional requirements when soliciting public contracts for engineering services. Finally, this new law does not apply to practice areas where licenses or certifications are required before August 1, 2015.

Ch. 18, amending Minn. Stat. § 326.02, subd. 3, effective August 1, 2015.

Uniform Municipal Contracting Law

“Water metering devices that increase efficiency or accuracy of water measurement and reduce energy” was added to the list of energy conservation measures that may be used in a guaranteed energy savings contract.

The Uniform Municipal Contracting Law defines a “guaranteed energy-

savings contract” as “a contract for the evaluation and recommendations of energy conservation measures, and for one or more energy conservation measures. The contract must provide that all payments, except obligations on termination of the contract before its expiration, are to be made over time, but not to exceed 20 years from the date of final installation, and the savings are guaranteed to the extent necessary to make payments for the systems.”

“Municipality” means a county, town, city, school district, or other municipal corporation or political subdivision of the state authorized by law to enter into contracts.

Ch. 22, amending Minn. Stat. § 471.345, subd. 13, effective August 1, 2015.

Approval of Plats

Cities, towns, and counties may use additional evidence of title to approve plats. Also, the 2015 law creates a procedure to remove previously cancelled contracts for deed from the property record or certificate of possessory title in [chapters 508](#) and [508A](#).

Ch. 32, amending Minn. Stat. §§ 505.03, subd. 1; 508.58, by adding subd. 5; 508A.58, subd. 2, and by adding subd. 3, effective August 1, 2015; amending 524.3-916, effective for decedents dying after December 31, 2015.

Public Construction Contracts; Responsible Contractor Law

In 2014, the Responsible Contractor Law was enacted and it established minimum criteria that a contractor must meet for a public entity to award the contractor a construction contract of \$50,000 or more. The law does not apply to a material supplier. The law applies to all public bodies.

As part of the 2015 changes, the act provides that “contractor” also does not include a design professional and defines both “design professional” and “material supplier.” In addition, the value of tax increment financing must be excluded when determining if a contract exceeds \$50,000, and motor carriers providing for-hire transportation of materials, equipment, or supplies for a project must meet the criteria of the law. A contractor must get certification from a motor carrier each year that the motor carrier meets all of the minimum criteria for a contractor. Also, before executing a construction contract, the prime contractor must submit to the public body supplemental verification that the subcontractors that the prime contractor will use meet all the minimum criteria for a contractor.

Ch. 64, amending Minn. Stat. § 16C.285, subs. 1 to 7, and by adding subd. 5a, effective July 1, 2015, and applies to construction contracts entered into based on solicitation documents issued on or after that date. The amendments to section 16C.285, subd. 3, cl. (1), item (ii), relating to the change from requiring a contractor to be registered with the Departments of Revenue and Employment and Economic Development, to being in compliance with those agencies’ registration requirements, are effective the day following final enactment and apply to solicitation documents issued on or after January 1, 2015.

**Volunteer
Firefighter and
First Responder
Pay**

Membership dues of a relief association may be one of the payroll deductions that an employer and employee may agree upon.

Ch. 65, art. 4, § 1, amending Minn. Stat. § 181.06, subd. 2, effective August 1, 2015.

The other change allows volunteer firefighters, first responders, volunteer ambulance drivers and attendants, and their employers to agree that wages earned may be paid less frequently than every 31 days. According to the League of Minnesota Cities, many local units of government have traditionally paid these employees on an annual, biannual, or quarterly basis instead of issuing multiple small checks throughout the year. The Office of the State Auditor (OSA) found this practice out of compliance with the law that requires all employees to be paid at least every 31 days.

Ch. 65, art. 4, § 2, amending Minn. Stat. § 181.101, effective May 23, 2015.

Disaster Assistance

Money from the disaster assistance contingency account may be used to provide matching funds to money received from the Federal Highway Administration emergency relief program and the United States Department of Agriculture emergency watershed protection program.

The criteria for disaster assistance includes a declaration of a disaster or emergency by a county government, rather than a declaration by a “local” government.

The law now specifies what a county’s request for declaration of a state disaster must include and establishes timelines for counties to request that the governor declare a state disaster.

Ch. 65, art. 7, amending Minn. Stat. §§ 12.221, subd. 6; 12B.15, subd. 2, and by adding subd. 3a; 12B.25, subd. 1; 12B.40; effective July 1, 2015.

**Release of Certain
Military Forms to a
Government Entity**

Current law prohibits a government entity from releasing the contents of United States government form DD214 or DD215 or any other certificate of discharge from military service unless certain conditions are met. This prohibition does not apply to the release of forms DD214 or DD215 or other certificates of discharge by an employee or official within a government entity to another employee or official within that entity for official duties. This act extends this exception to allow for the release of discharge documents to *another* government veteran service entity for purposes of locating records.

Ch. 66, amending Minn. Stat. § 196.08, effective August 1, 2015.

**Automated License
Plate Readers**

This act regulates and classifies data related to use of automated license plate readers by law enforcement agencies. In general, automated license plate reader data are private data, unless otherwise provided by law. Among other requirements, destruction of the data is required within 60 days, if the data are not part of an active criminal investigation. The law also requires government entities to disclose the existence of certain types of surveillance technology.

A current temporary classification of automated license plate reader data, issued by the Commissioner of Administration, classifies the data as private or nonpublic. The temporary classification expires August 1, 2015. This act will replace the temporary classification as of that date.

Ch. 67, amending Minn. Stat. § 13.82, subd. 2, and by adding subd. 31, effective August 1, 2015; adding § 13.824, effective August 1, 2015, and requiring data collected before August 1, 2015, to be destroyed, if required by this section, no later than August 16, 2015; and adding § 626.8472, effective August 1, 2015, provided that chief law enforcement officers shall adopt the policy required under this section no later than January 15, 2016.

Elections

A 14-member Elections Emergency Planning Task Force was established to research and report by January 1, 2016, to the legislature on: (1) potential emergency scenarios that could impact elections; (2) current capacity and authority to address emergency situations; (3) potential direct and indirect costs of an emergency that disrupts elections; (4) maintaining ballot security in event of an emergency; (5) continuity of operations procedures; and (6) communications plans and key emergency contacts. The task force members include local as well as state officials.

Ch. 70, art. 1, § 61; effective May 23, 2015; § 62 appropriating money for the task force is effective August 1, 2015. The task force sunsets the earlier of when the report is submitted or January 1, 2016.

Cities and towns may draw precinct boundaries without following “visible, clearly recognizable physical features.” According to the League of Minnesota Cities, this will allow cities to change precinct boundaries to align with school district boundaries and eliminate confusion because more than one school district falls within one precinct.

Ch. 70, art. 1, § 63, repealing Minn. Stat. § 204B.14, subd. 6, effective August 1, 2015.

Data Privacy; Disability Certificates

Private data on disability certificate holders may now be released to employees or agents of cities and towns for the purposes of enforcement of disability parking laws. Previously this data could only be released to law enforcement agencies.

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 1, amending Minn. Stat. § 13.69, subd. 1, effective May 23, 2015.

Eminent Domain, Appraisals

The threshold for a minimum damage acquisition was increased from \$10,000 to \$25,000 in the law governing appraisals in eminent domain actions. A taking authority only needs to get an appraisal of property before beginning an eminent domain action if acquisition is over \$25,000. This change was an executive branch proposal.

Ch. 75, art. 2, §§ 3, 4, amending Minn. Stat. § 117.036, subs. 2, 4, effective July 1, 2015.

**Traffic Signal
Timing**

A road authority that has ownership of a traffic signal on a principal arterial roadway or roadway with an average daily traffic count greater than 20,000 vehicles per day must complete an inventory of all traffic signals under its ownership and submit it to the Department of Transportation district engineer. The inventory must include age of all signals, control equipment, communications, detection type, timing plans in operation, and date of last timing optimization. The initial inventory must be submitted on or before December 30, 2015. A “road authority” includes “the county board, as to county state-aid highways and county highways; the town board, as to town roads; and the governing bodies of cities when the governing bodies or city streets are specifically mentioned.” [Minn. Stat. § 160.02](#), subd. 25.

Based on the information from the inventory, the road authority must develop and implement a traffic signal system optimization plan and re-evaluate traffic signal timing at least once every five years. The road authority must annually certify compliance with its plan and submit the certification as part of its annual maintenance expenditure report.

The Department of Transportation must provide reasonable technical assistance if the local road authority requests it.

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 6, adding [Minn. Stat. § 160.235](#), effective May 23, 2015.

**Safe Routes to
School**

To be eligible to receive funds under the state’s Safe Routes to School program, counties, cities, and towns must have subdivision regulations that require Safe Routes to School infrastructure in subdivision developments authorized on or after June 1, 2016.

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 32, amending [Minn. Stat. § 174.40](#), by adding subd. 4a, effective July 1, 2015.

**Health Insurance
for Dependents of
Deceased
Firefighters, Peace
Officers**

Volunteer firefighters were added to a provision requiring continued health insurance coverage of dependents (e.g., spouses and children) of a peace officer or firefighter who dies in the line of duty. In addition, the act provides for health insurance coverage of dependents on the part of a municipality when a volunteer firefighter is killed in the line of duty and the person was not eligible for the municipality’s group health insurance (if any). Finally, the act also clarifies that municipalities may offer additional health insurance benefits beyond the minimum required for dependents of deceased peace officers and firefighters (including volunteer firefighters).

Ch. 75, art. 2, §§ 38 to 41, amending [Minn. Stat. § 299A.465](#), subds. 2 and 5, and adding subds. 2a and 5a, effective January 1, 2016, and applies to officer and firefighter deaths that occur on and after the effective date.

- Mini Trucks** The 2015 sunset on a county, city, or town’s authority to issue special permits for mini trucks to be operated on the local government’s roads was repealed.
Ch. 75, art. 2, § 47, amending Laws 2009, ch. 158, § 10, as amended by Laws 2012, ch. 287, art. 3, § 56, and Laws 2014, ch. 255, § 20; effective May 23, 2015.
- Transportation Projects, Cost-Share Policy** The Department of Transportation must develop, in consultation with local units of government, a cost-share policy on participation in construction and maintenance costs of shared projects. The policy must minimize costs borne by local government while accounting for constitutional restrictions on use of trunk highway fund dollars. The policy must be adopted by the department by March 1, 2016.
Ch. 75, art. 2, § 52, effective May 23, 2015.
- Road Design Standards and Guidelines** The Department of Transportation must collaborate with local government representatives to develop design engineering standards and guidelines for similar roads across the governmental jurisdictions, including aligning state-aid and trunk highway road standards. The commissioner must report the adopted standards and guidelines to the chairs and ranking minority members of the Senate and House of Representatives committees with jurisdiction over transportation policy by August 15, 2016, and present an interim report by March 15, 2016.
Ch. 75, art. 2, § 57, effective May 23, 2015.
- Veterans Preference** A veteran who requests a hearing upon notice of termination may select the body that will hear the veteran’s challenge to the termination; a veteran may elect to have a veterans preference hearing conducted by a civil service board or commission, a merit authority, or a three-person panel. If the veteran does not select a hearing body, the decision belongs to the governmental subdivision. For disputes heard by a civil service board, the political subdivisions shall bear all costs associated with the hearing but not including attorney fees for attorneys representing the veteran. For disputes heard by a three-person panel, all parties shall bear equally all costs associated with the hearing, but not including attorney fees for attorneys representing the veteran. If the veteran prevails in a dispute heard by a civil service board or a three-person panel and the hearing reverses all aspects of discharge, the governmental subdivision shall pay the veteran’s reasonable attorney fees.
Ch. 77, art. 3, § 6, amending Minn. Stat. § 197.46, effective May 24, 2015, and applies to all notices of intent to discharge issued on or after that date.
- Workforce Housing** The legislature created a workforce housing development program in the Department of Employment and Economic Development to award grants to eligible project areas to be used for development of market rate residential rental properties. The legislature also appropriated \$4 million for the program. Eligible project areas are cities with a population of 500

or more, a community that has a combined population of 1,500 residents located within 15 miles of a city, or the Cook County-Grand Marais joint economic development authority.

The program requires a grantee to demonstrate that:

- (1) the average vacancy rate for rental housing located in the eligible project area, and in any other city located within 15 miles or less of the boundaries of the area, has been 5 percent or less for at least the prior two-year period;
- (2) one or more businesses located in the eligible project area, or within 25 miles of the area, that employs a minimum of 20 full-time equivalent employees in aggregate have provided a written statement to the eligible project area indicating that the lack of available rental housing has impeded their ability to recruit and hire employees; and
- (3) the eligible project area has certified that the grants will be used for qualified expenditures for the development of rental housing to serve employees of businesses located in the eligible project area or surrounding area.

Preference for grants awarded under this section must be given to eligible project areas with less than 18,000 people.

The amount of a grant may not exceed 25 percent of the rental housing development project cost. The commissioner shall not award a grant to a city without certification by the city that the amount of the grant shall be matched by a local unit of government, business, or nonprofit organization with \$1 for every \$2 provided in grant funds. The legislature appropriated \$4 million for the program for fiscal years 2016-2017. The commissioner must report to the legislature annually.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 1, § 2, subd. 2, para. (l) (appropriating \$4 million for the program), effective July 1, 2015; art. 2, § 2, adding Minn. Stat. § 116J.549, effective, June 14, 2015.

Workforce Housing Pilot Program

The legislature appropriated \$1.373 million in fiscal year 2016 for a workforce housing pilot program established for cities in Pennington or Roseau counties in 2014 and increased the maximum grant award from the lesser of \$400,000 or 10 percent of the rental housing development project cost, to \$1 million or 25 percent of the project cost. In addition, the match required was decreased to \$1 for every \$2 provided in grant funds, same as for the new general program.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 1, § 2, subd. 2, para. (k), effective July 1, 2015; and art. 2, § 21, amending Laws 2014, ch. 308, art. 6, § 14, subd. 5, effective June 14, 2015, and applies retroactively to grants previously received or awarded.

- Broadband** The legislature added \$10.588 million to the border-to-border broadband fund it established in 2014. Money appropriated for administrative costs may be used to collect and analyze data measuring the progress of the program to inform future investments in broadband infrastructure. The data collected is nonpublic data.
Ist spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 1, § 2, subd. 9, effective July 1, 2015.
- Public Employment Relations Board** In 2014, the legislature created the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) to hear unfair labor practice charges under the Public Employment Labor Relations Act, currently heard in district court. The board was to be functioning as of July 1, 2015. In 2015, the legislature delayed the start of the PERB's operations until July 1, 2016.
Ist spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 7, amending Laws 2014, ch. 211, § 13 (the effective date), effective June 14, 2015.
- Recycled Content of Copy Paper** A public entity must now purchase copy paper with at least 30 percent postconsumer recycled content. Printing and office paper may continue to be at least 10 percent. Also, the law no longer restricts ink to only two colors.
Ist spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 3, amending Minn. Stat. § 16C.073, subd. 2, effective July 1, 2015.
- All-Terrain Vehicle Operation** A county, city, or town, acting through its governing body, may by ordinance allow a person to operate an all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a public road or street under its jurisdiction to access businesses and residences and to make trail connections. Certain class 1 ATVs may be operated on the roadway the same as a class 2 ATV. In addition, the previous exemption for utility vehicles to operate on roadways is extended to road authority vehicles.
Ist spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 18, amending Minn. Stat. § 84.928, subd. 1, effective July 1, 2015, except that the extension of the exemption for road authority vehicles is effective June 14, 2015.
- Shooting Sports Facility Grants** Local governments are now eligible for cost-share grants for up to 50 percent of the costs of developing or rehabilitating shooting sports facilities for public use. A facility rehabilitated or developed with a grant must be open to the general public at reasonable times and for a reasonable fee on a walk-in basis. The commissioner must give preference to projects that will provide the most opportunities for youth.
Ist spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 40, amending Minn. Stat. § 87A.10, effective July 1, 2015.
- Riparian Buffers** To protect the state's water resources from erosion and runoff pollution; stabilize soils, shores, and banks; and protect or provide riparian corridors, the legislature enacted riparian buffer requirements. Specifically, land adjacent to:

- (1) a public water body that is mapped on a buffer protection map must have a buffer of perennial vegetation or alternative riparian water quality practice in place by November 1, 2017; and
- (2) a public drainage system that is mapped on a buffer protection map must have a buffer of perennial vegetation or alternative riparian water quality practice in place by November 1, 2018.

For mapped public waters the buffer required is the greater of: a 50-foot average with a 30-foot minimum or the requirement in the Department of Natural Resource's shoreland zoning rules. For mapped public drainage systems, the buffer requirement is 16.5 feet.

Land used for cultivated farming may satisfy the buffer requirement by adopting alternative riparian water quality practices approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) must develop, adopt, and submit to local water management authorities a summary of watercourses under the authority's jurisdiction that must be included in the authority's plan. "Local water management authority" means a watershed district, a metropolitan area water management organization, or a county.

Land adjacent to water subject to the riparian protection requirements is exempt if it is:

- (1) enrolled in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) program;
- (2) used as a public or private access, including beaches and water oriented structures;
- (3) covered by a road, trail, building, or other structure;
- (4) subject to a PCA discharge permit;
- (5) part of a water-inundation cropping system; or
- (6) temporarily nonvegetated due to tile installation, perennial plant seeding, or an authorized conservation project.

SWCDs must report violations to counties or watershed districts with jurisdiction. The county or watershed district may use a delegated administrative penalty order (APO) authority beginning November 1, 2017, to enforce this provision.

The state may withhold funding to local water management authorities and SWCDs for failing to implement the new law.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, §§ 72, 77 to 79, 146; amending Minn. Stat. § 103B.101, by adding subd. 12a; Minn. Stat. § 103F.421, subd. 4, and by adding subd. 6; adding Minn. Stat. § 103F.48, effective July 1, 2015.

**Wetland
Conservation Act
Modifications**

The legislature modified the Wetland Conservation Act to offer alternative mitigation options within the watershed, target high priority areas for mitigation outside of the watershed, and established an in-lieu fee program.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, §§ 73, 75, 80 to 90, 133, amending Minn. Stat. §§ 103B.101, by adding subd. 16; 103B.3355; 103F.612, subd. 2; 103G.005, by adding subd. 10g; 103G.222, subds. 1, 3; 103G.2242, subds. 1 to 4, 12, 14; 103G.2251; effective July 1, 2015.

**Public Waters
Work Permit
Exception**

Replacing a culvert that is the same size and elevation, and that does not impact a trout stream, now does not require a public waters work permit.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 91, amending Minn. Stat. § 103G.245, subd. 2, effective July 1, 2015.

**Voluntary Self-
Reporting of
Pollution Violations**

The Pollution Control Agency (PCA) must delay enforcement for 60 days if a public or private entity subject to environmental requirements voluntarily reports a violation. If the violation is corrected or is under schedule to be corrected, the PCA must waive any fines. The enforcement delay and penalty waiver does not apply to including criminal enforcement actions, violations that cause great harm or provide substantial economic benefit to the regulated entity, and other specific situations.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 99, adding Minn. Stat. § 114C.40, effective July 1, 2015.

**Municipal
Wastewater
Treatment System
Discharge Permits**

The PCA must post on the agency's website by January 15 each year the agency's activities in the previous year to implement standards and classification requirements into the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) and state disposal system permits held by municipalities. The new law lists required elements of the report. Under this statute, "municipality" means a city, sanitary district, or other governmental subdivision or public corporation.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 101, amending Minn. Stat. § 115.44, by adding subd. 9, effective July 1, 2015.

Recycling Grants

The Commissioner of the PCA must develop a competitive grant program for political subdivisions outside the metropolitan area to establish or increase curbside recycling or composting, reduce recyclables from entering disposal facilities, or reduce costs associated with hauling waste by locating collection sites as close as possible to where waste is generated. Cities must have a population under 45,000 to be eligible. The maximum grant amount is \$250,000, and \$1 million each year of the biennium was appropriated for the program. A grantee has four years to encumber the money or it is canceled.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 110, adding Minn. Stat. § 115A.565, effective July 1, 2015.

**Solid Waste
Collectors
Registration,
Reporting**

A local government that licenses collectors of municipal solid waste must submit a list of all licensed collectors to the PCA. By July 1, 2016, the PCA, in consultation with others, must develop reporting forms to reduce duplicative reporting by local governments of the collectors they license. All collectors of municipal solid waste or recyclable materials must report to the PCA annually information about recyclable materials collected by source and destination.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 111, amending Minn. Stat. § 115A.93, subd. 1, effective July 1, 2015.

**Solid Waste
Facility Permitting**

The PCA cannot issue a permit for a new or expanded solid waste disposal facility unless all local governments in which the facility is to be sited have provided public notice and approved and authorized the permit to be issued, or the facility is to be sited on land already identified as a site in an approved solid waste management plan.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 119, amending Minn. Stat. § 116.07, subd. 4j, effective June 14, 2015.

**Surface Water
Impacts**

The Commissioner of Natural Resources must consult with stakeholders, including community water suppliers, on recommendations to make to the Legislative Water Commission and the legislature on definitions and thresholds for negative impact to surface waters.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 143, effective July 1, 2015.

Taxes

**Studies of Outdoor
Heritage Fund
Land Purchases
and PILT
Alternatives**

Land acquisition report. The staff of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council must prepare a report on the land and easements acquired with outdoor heritage funds over the last five years and projected acquisitions over the life of the fund. The report must include information on amounts, value, foregone property taxes, and increases in the payment-in-lieu-of taxes (PILT) payments due to the acquisitions.

PILT alternative study. The Commissioner of Management and Budget, must examine and make recommendations regarding alternatives to PILT for land acquired with money from the outdoor heritage fund and other dedicated funds. The commissioner is to consult with the commissioners of Natural Resources and Revenue, the Association of Minnesota Counties, and the Minnesota Association of Townships in preparing the report.

The omnibus tax bill contained provisions that eliminated general fund PILT payments for new land acquired with outdoor heritage and environmental and natural resources fund money. These PILT payments would have been replaced with onetime payments out of the dedicated

funds to a county trust fund to make ongoing payments to affected local governments. Although the omnibus tax bill never made it out of conference committee, the information from these studies will be useful in evaluating this or similar future proposals.

1st spec. sess. ch. 2, art 1, §§ 2, subds. 6, para. (d), and 10, effective July 1, 2015.

**Sales Tax
Exemption for
Certain Local
Governments**

The effective date for the sales tax exemption for purchases made by instrumentalities of cities, counties, and towns, joint powers boards and organizations, and special taxing districts is delayed by one year to January 1, 2017. The expansion of the local government sales tax exemption in 2013 had an effective date of January 1, 2017, for the Metropolitan Council only; the exemption for the other entities was originally scheduled to start January 1, 2016.

1st spec. sess. ch. 3, art. 6, § 7, effective June 14, 2015.

Cities

Elections, Filing Fees

Statutory cities may set their own filing fees for candidates filing for local elected offices, up to a maximum amount that is based on the city's classification: \$80 maximum for first-class cities, \$40 maximum for second- and third-class cities, and \$15 maximum for fourth-class cities. Home rule charter cities already have authority to set fees by charter and do not have a cap on the amount.

Ch. 70, art. 1, § 49, amending Minn. Stat. § 205.13, subd. 3, effective August 1, 2015.

Small Cities Assistance Program—Road Construction and Maintenance

The legislature appropriated \$12.5 million from the general fund in fiscal year 2016 for a new transportation aid program for small cities—those cities that do not receive municipal state-aid street funds (which, with some exceptions, is available only for cities having a population of at least 5,000). There are over 700 cities that will be eligible for the new aid program. The aid may be used only for road construction and maintenance. Projects funded under the program are exempt from any state-aid design standards.

The aid will be allocated based on a formula and distributed in conjunction with local government aid (LGA) distributions by the Department of Revenue. Cities must be in compliance with State Auditor financial reporting requirements in order to receive funds.

The formula for distributing the money is:

- ▶ 5 percent of the funding is allocated equally across the cities
- ▶ 35 percent is allocated proportionally based on population
- ▶ 35 percent is allocated proportionally based on lane-miles (i.e., counting each lane of a road) of municipal streets within each city
- ▶ 25 percent is allocated proportionally in declining amounts based on lane-miles of county state-aid highway (CSAH) within each city, so that the aid amount reduces (down to \$0) as the number of CSAH lane-miles increases

The amount for any city is subject to a per-city maximum cutoff of 3.5 times the average aid for all eligible cities in a fiscal year.

Ch. 75, art. 1, § 3, subd. 4, para. (c); and art. 2, § 13, adding Minn. Stat. § 162.145, effective May 23, 2015.

Urban Agriculture

The Commissioner of Agriculture must convene interested stakeholders and develop a proposal to effectively and efficiently promote urban agriculture in Minnesota cities. By January 15, 2016, the commissioner must report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture policy and finance and submit proposed legislation that

includes a new definition of urban agriculture if the commissioner and stakeholders determine that a different definition more accurately defines urban agriculture.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 2, § 85, effective July 1, 2015.

Counties

Conciliation Court A county's conciliation court now has jurisdiction over claims by that county to recover debts owed to the county for fees, services, or overpayments, even when the defendant is not a resident. Prior law only allowed for actions in the county conciliation court where the defendant resides except in specific circumstances outlined in statute, including student loans, debts related to rental property, and dishonored checks. This adds debts owed to the county as an exception to that list.

Ch. 27, amending [Minn. Stat. § 491A.01](#), subd. 3a, and by adding subd. 11, effective August 1, 2015.

Elections The county attorney no longer forfeits the office if a violation of the voter registration law is not prosecuted but instead is required to proceed according to the generally applicable standards regarding the prosecutorial functions and duties of a county attorney.

Ch. 70, art. 1, § 10, amending [Minn. Stat. § 201.275](#), effective August 1, 2015.

County State Aid Highway Formula The legislature changed the CSAH formula, as recommended by the counties. The change creates a fixed percentage split between the two separate formulas used in calculating CSAH funding allocations to each county, so that:

- ▶ 68 percent of available funds are distributed under the apportionment sum formula (the “old” CSAH formula); and
- ▶ 32 percent is distributed under the excess sum formula (the formula used under current law to allocate “new” funds to transportation, consisting of revenue from MVST constitutional dedication as well as 2008 legislative changes increasing the gas tax and changing the motor vehicle registration tax).

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 12, amending [Minn. Stat. § 162.07](#), subd. 1a, effective July 1, 2015, for distribution calculations on or after that date.

County Audits Expanding on an option first authorized in 2003, beginning after August 1, 2016, any county may choose to have its annual audit performed by a certified public accounting (CPA) firm meeting the requirements of [Minnesota Statutes, section 326A.05](#).

In 2003, the legislature modified the statute to allow the state auditor to decide which counties the state auditor would audit and otherwise allowed counties to have audits performed by a CPA firm. This year, the legislature changed the statute to allow a county to choose to have an audit performed by the state auditor or a CPA firm. If a county chooses to have an audit performed by a CPA firm, the audit must

meet standards required by the state auditor. The state auditor may require additional information from the CPA firm, but must accept the audit unless the auditor determines it does not meet industry standards. The state auditor may make additional examinations, and the county will pay the auditor for these additional examinations.

Data relating to an audit performed by a CPA firm are subject to the same data classification that apply to audits performed by the state auditor. The CPA firm must provide access to the audit and is liable for unlawful disclosure of data, as if it were a government entity.

Finally, the law specifies procedures to be followed if a county switches between the state auditor and a private CPA firm.

Ch. 77, art. 2, §§ 3, 87, subd. 2, 88, para. (b), adding [Minn. Stat. § 6.481](#); repealing [Minn. Stat. § 6.48](#); effective August 1, 2016. Section 87, subd. 2, is a Revisor instruction to substitute a reference to [§ 6.481](#) for each reference to [§ 6.48](#). See also [1st spec. sess. ch. 6, § 3](#), correcting the effective date of the repeal of [§ 6.48](#).

The Office of the Legislative Auditor is directed to report on the efficiency of the examinations conducted by the state auditor under [Minnesota Statutes, section 6.48](#). The report must be forwarded to the House of Representatives and Senate chairs of legislative committees with jurisdiction over state government finance by January 15, 2016.

Ch. 77, art. 2, § 84, effective July 1, 2015.

**County Overseer of
Roads, Assessor in
Unorganized
Territory**

The legislature repealed a statute that dates back more than 100 years and requires a county to divide the unorganized territory in the county into one or more assessment and road districts and appoint a qualified person residing in the district to be an assessor and another person to be an overseer of roads. Under the repealed statute, the persons appointed were given the powers of a town assessor and town overseer of roads, respectively, and held office for one year. Persons appointed were compensated at \$4 per day for the overseer of roads and \$6 per day for the assessor, but not less than \$75 per year or more than \$400 per year. The following 16 counties have unorganized territories: Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Cook, Crow Wing, Hennepin (Fort Snelling), Itasca, Kittson, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Roseau, and St. Louis.

Ch. 77, art. 2, § 88, para. (b), repealing [Minn. Stat. § 375.23](#), effective July 1, 2015.

**Publicly Owned and
Leased Vehicles
Identified,
Exception**

The law requiring motor vehicles owned or leased by political subdivisions to have the name of the political subdivision plainly displayed on a vehicle's sides was modified to exclude vehicles used for investigations conducted by Department of Human Services central office staff and county fraud prevention investigations conducted by county or contract fraud prevention investigators.

Ch. 78, art. 4, § 58, amending [Minn. Stat. § 471.346](#), effective August 1, 2015.

Recycling

Recyclable materials now include sole source food waste streams that are managed through biodegradative processed, and may count towards a county's recycling goal.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, §§ 104, 108, amending Minn. Stat. § 115A.03, subd. 25a, 115A.551, subd. 2a, effective July 1, 2015.

SCORE grants may be used to prevent food waste and transporting food donated to feed humans or animals, and to further process source-separated compostable materials to produce Class I or II compost after those materials have been processed, in an anaerobic digester.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 109, amending Minn. Stat. § 115A.557, subd. 2, effective July 1, 2015.

Towns

School District Special Elections

A school district may not hold a special election on a question on which the voters are authorized by law to pass judgment on the same day as the annual town meeting in March.

Ch. 70, art. 1, § 50, amending [Minn. Stat. § 205A.05](#), subd. 1, effective August 1, 2015.

Public Water Works Permit Fee Exemption

There is no longer a fee for a public water works permit for organized township roads. Previously the town could be charged up to \$100 for a permit in connection with construction or alteration of a town road, bridge, or culvert.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, § 98, amending [Minn. Stat. § 103G.201](#), subd. 5a, effective July 1, 2015.

Special Legislation

- Becker** Becker may issue a liquor license for a golf course that is located at 14000 Clubhouse Lane and is owned by the city.
Ch. 9, art. 2, § 8, effective upon local approval.
- Brooklyn Park** The city of Brooklyn Park may issue a liquor license to a wedding event center that is located at 7324 Lakeland Avenue.
Ch. 9, art. 2, § 12, effective upon local approval.
- Cedar Lake Area Water and Sanitary Sewer District** In 2014, the district was authorized to increase the maximum number of connections in the Cedar Lake Area Water and Sanitary Sewer District's comprehensive plan from 325 connections to 364 connections, subject to local approval. ([Laws 2014, ch. 308](#), art. 2, § 16, amending [Laws 1999, ch. 243](#), art. 14, § 5, subd. 1, effective upon local approval.) The connection increase is needed because Helena Township in Scott County wants to dissolve a subordinate service district (SSD) and use the surplus from the sale of property to pay to connect affected property owners to the Cedar Lake district. The district failed to complete local approval within the time allowed by statute. The 2015 law extends the time to file the certificate of local approval to June 30, 2015, and if it is filed by that date, the 2014 law is effective retroactively from May 21, 2014.
Ch. 19, effective May 8, 2015.
- Crow Wing County** Under general law in Minnesota Statutes, [chapter 375A](#), a county may make the offices of auditor, treasurer, auditor-treasurer, and recorder appointed positions if approved by a referendum.

This law allows Crow Wing County to make the offices of auditor-treasurer and recorder appointed positions if approved by an 80 percent vote of the county board, subject to reverse referendum. It provides for current officeholders to complete the terms to which they were elected before the offices are made appointed positions. The county board resolution cannot be adopted until after notice and an opportunity for the public to comment at a regular board meeting. The resolution does not take effect until 60 days after it is adopted (or a later date set in the resolution), to provide time for filing a petition for a referendum. The law also provides a process to revert back to elected positions.
Ch. 38, effective upon local approval.
- District One Hospital, Faribault** In 2014, the District One Hospital District in Faribault was authorized to sell the district property, notwithstanding a 1963 special law prohibiting any sale. Once the sale is concluded and all outstanding debt is able to be paid, each city and town in the district must petition the hospital board for dissolution under the general law governing hospital districts. Once the petition for dissolution is filed, the special laws establishing and

governing the hospital district are repealed. ([Laws 2014, ch. 183.](#))

During the transition period, the hospital district sought, and in this law received, authority to reduce the required number of board meetings from at least once a month to at least twice a year.

Ch. 33, amending [Laws 1963, ch. 118](#), § 4, as amended by [Laws 1996, ch. 471](#), art. 8, § 21, effective May 15, 2015.

Duluth

The city of Duluth may issue a liquor license for the Lester Park Golf Course that is located at 1860 Lester River Road and is owned by the city.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 9, effective upon local approval.

Hennepin County

Local approval error may be fixed. Hennepin County was given a chance to fix a clerical error in approving a law enacted for the county in [Laws 2009, chapter 50](#), sections 1 and 2. The county failed to file the certificate of local approval with the secretary of state by December 31, 2010, as required by [Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021](#). Under the 2015 law, the actions of the county pursuant to the 2009 law are effective retroactively if the county files the certificate of local approval with the secretary of state by June 30, 2015. The 2009 law allowed the county to streamline its human resources policies

Ch. 10, effective May 2, 2015.

Limits on railroad powers of eminent domain in Hennepin County.

Notwithstanding any law granting railroads the power of eminent domain, a railroad cannot use eminent domain to take a property interest owned by Hennepin County, the Hennepin County Housing and Redevelopment Authority, or the Hennepin County Regional Railroad Authority if the county board determines by resolution that the public safety or access of first responders would be detrimentally affected by the railroad using its eminent domain power to take county property.

Ch. 77, art. 2, § 76, adding [Minn. Stat. § 383B.83](#), effective retroactively from March 2, 2015, and applies to any eminent domain action to acquire any property interest of any of the named entities.

Houston County

Under general law, members of a county economic development authority serve staggered, six-year terms. Under this law, Houston County may, by resolution, provide for staggered, three-year terms for members appointed to the Houston County Economic Development Authority. The resolution must provide a transition schedule. The county sought the authority because it has been hard for the county to find persons willing to commit to six-year terms.

Ch. 31, effective upon local approval.

Inver Grove Heights The city of Inver Grove Heights may issue a liquor license for the Inver Wood Golf Course that is located at 1850 70th Street and is owned by the city.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 10, effective upon local approval.

Lewis and Clark Regional Water System The state continued to front the money needed to proceed with the next phase of the regional water system by authorizing \$19 million in state appropriation bonds. This will pay for completion of the pipeline to Magnolia, extension of the project to the Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water System connection near Adrian, and engineering, design, and easement acquisition for the final phase of the project to Worthington. The grant requires a nonstate match of at least \$9 million, which the legislature understood to be available. The annual debt service payments of up to \$1.351 million will be from the general fund from fiscal year 2017 through fiscal year 2038. The bond proceeds are appropriated to Minnesota Management and Budget, which will enter into an agreement with the Public Facilities Authority to administer the grant(s) to the Lewis and Clark Regional Water Systems, Inc.

1st spec. sess. ch. 5, art. 3, § 1, adding Minn. Stat. § 16A.967, effective June 14, 2015.

Minneapolis Minneapolis may issue a liquor license for the Norway House or to its concessionaire or operator for use on the premises owned by Norway House at 913 East Franklin Avenue.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 4, amending Minn. Stat. § 340A.404, subd. 2, effective upon local approval.

Olmsted County The Olmsted County Board may by resolution provide that the county board will constitute the county housing and redevelopment authority (HRA), instead of appointees of the city and county board. The terms of the current HRA terminate as provided in the county's resolution. The county sought this change because for the first time the HRA would be levying for its housing program and the county wanted only elected officials imposing a levy.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 4, § 2, amending Laws 1994, ch. 493, § 1, effective upon local approval by the city and the county.

Rochester, Olmsted County, and the Destination Medical Center In 2013 legislation was enacted so that the city of Rochester could fund public infrastructure needed to support the Mayo Clinic's Destination Medical Center (DMC) projects. A number of changes were made this year to clarify the amount of private spending needed in order to trigger the authorized state aid, the state aid carryover provisions, and the spending that qualifies as the local match. The changes were passed in two parts. The first set was passed during the regular session and the second set passed in the 2015 first special section as an article in the omnibus jobs and energy bill.

State aid clarification—private expenditures. As originally enacted, state aid for the DMC project was intended to be based on the amount of cumulative private investments (by the Mayo Clinic and other private entities in Rochester). The allowed aid payment in each year is a percent of cumulative private investments (i.e., the sum of the private investments or spending for all years), over a \$200 million threshold, up to a maximum annual amount. However, the Office of the Attorney General and the Department of Employment and Economic Development concluded that the language was ambiguous and did not provide for a cumulative calculation. The statutory language was modified to reflect the original intent.

Carryover aid payments. The law also requires Rochester and Olmsted County to make annual matching fund payments in order to receive the allowed state aid each year. If the city's or county's match in any year is less than the amount needed to receive the total amount allowed based on the amount of private spending, the difference could be carried over and paid in subsequent years if the city or county made "catch up" match payments. There was confusion over the language authorizing carryover aid and so this provision was also clarified.

Ch. 1, §§ 8, 9, and 11, amending Minn. Stat. § 467.47, subd. 1, 3, and 5, effective retroactively to June 21, 2013, upon local approval.

Development plan costs The law modified the definition of "public infrastructure project" to include preparing and modifying the DMC development plan. This allows both state aid and city revenues to be used to fund the development plan and ensures that the city funds used for this purpose count as part of the city match. In addition, the law allowing city funding of public infrastructure structure costs prior to adoption of the development plan, with approval by the DMC Corporation, is extended to include the use of state aid for these approved costs as well. This change simplifies accounting requirements regarding these costs.

Ch. 1, §§ 6 and 7, amending Minn. Stat. §§ 469.40, subd. 11, and 469.44, subd. 5, effective retroactively to June 21, 2013, upon local approval.

Public infrastructure project. The definition of "public infrastructure project" was expanded to include other planning costs not directly related to the development plan (see "development plan costs" above). This change allows the city to use either DMC state aid or city taxes to pay these other planning costs and ensures that amounts spent out of city taxes for this planning counts towards the required local match.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 8, § 1, amending Minn. Stat. § 469.40, subd. 11, as amended by Laws 2015, ch. 1, § 6, effective retroactively to June 21, 2013, upon local approval.

City financial support for the EDA. A new provision was enacted that clarifies that the nonprofit economic development agency (EDA), a private entity created by the Mayo Clinic, cannot require the city to pay amounts that are unrelated to public infrastructure project costs.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 8, § 2, amending Minn. Stat. § 469.43, by adding subd. 6a, effective retroactively to June 22, 2013, upon local approval.

Use of city general and special sales taxes. The allowed uses of the revenues from the city local sales, lodging, food and beverage, and admissions taxes are expanded to include any cost that counts toward the city local match. The main expansion of what qualifies was the inclusion of planning costs.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 8, §§ 3 and 4, amending Minn. Stat. § 469.45, subds. 1 and 2, effective retroactively to June 21, 2013, upon local approval.

Local matching contribution. The original law provided that only one-half of city money spent to support the DMC Corporation or the EDA qualified as a local matching contribution under the state aid program. This is changed to allow 100 of those expenditures to count towards the required local match.

1st spec. sess. ch. 1, art. 8, § 5, amending Minn. Stat. § 469.47, subd. 4, as amended by Laws 2015, ch. 1, § 10, effective retroactively to June 21, 2013, upon local approval.

Saint Cloud

The city of Saint Cloud may issue a liquor license for the Municipal Athletic Complex that is located at 5001 Veterans Drive and is owned by the city.

Ch. 9, art. 2, § 11, effective upon local approval.

Saint Paul

The city of Saint Paul may by ordinance restrict or prohibit the use of engine braking (also known as Jake braking) on I-94 between Johnson Parkway and Trunk Highway 52. The Department of Transportation will post signs along the route at the city's expense. "Engine brake" means any device that uses the engine and transmission to impede the forward motion of the motor vehicle by compression of the engine.

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 53, effective May 23, 2015.

Metropolitan Government

Metropolitan Council Chair's Compensation

For one day, July 1, 2015, the governor was able to change the salary of the council chair, but after that salary increases will be subject to legislative approval. On July 1, 2015, the governor increased the chair's annual salary to \$144,991.

Ch. 3, §§ 1 to 3, amending [Minn. Stat. §§ 3.855, subd. 3; 15A.0815, subs. 1, 5; effective July 2, 2015; and § 4, effective February 27, 2015, and applying to salaries for positions listed under \[Minn. Stat. § 15A.0815\]\(#\), where the governor is the appointing authority, between the day following final enactment and June 30, 2015. The restriction provided under § 4 applies to current incumbents and any successors.](#)

Background: With reorganization of metropolitan government in 1994, the Metropolitan Council chair's salary was set at \$52,500 per year (effective January 1, 1995) and the other council members at \$20,000 per year plus expenses, until changed in law after recommendation of the compensation council. ([Laws 1994, ch. 628](#), art. 1, § 8.) The council members' compensation has not changed since then.

In 1997, the chair's compensation was changed to be up to 85 percent of the governor's salary. This allowed a salary up to \$102,000. ([Laws 1997, 2nd spec. sess. ch. 3, § 5, amending \[Minn. Stat. § 15A.0815\]\(#\), subd. 3.](#)) In 2013, the law was amended to provide for a limit of up to 120 percent of the governor's salary, with an annual inflation adjustment. ([Minn. Stat. § 15A.0815](#), subd. 3.) With the governor's salary at \$123,912 that meant a maximum of \$148,694.

From 2003 to 2012, the council chair was paid \$58,000 per year and the position was treated as a part-time position. In 2013, it was increased to \$61,000 per year (rounded), or less than half the maximum it could have been under law for a full-time position.

With the appointment of Adam Duininck as chair beginning in January 2015, two things happened. First, the position was changed to a full-time position, and second, the governor increased the chair's salary to \$144,000. The governor also increased other commissioner salaries and the legislature objected to all of the increases. The compromise over executive branch salaries froze salaries at the 2014 rate, which meant that the chair's salary was reduced to approximately \$122,000—equal to twice the amount of the previous chair to reflect the position going from half-time to full-time. As noted above, on July 1, 2015, the governor had the option for one day to increase salaries and after that salary increases must be done by law.

Metropolitan Transit

In addition to appropriating general fund money to the council for transit operations, the legislature earmarked \$2 million over the 2016-2017 biennium for passthrough grants to suburban transit providers (opt-outs) for additional transit service between suburban communities, and \$200,000 in fiscal year 2016 for passthrough grants to transportation management organizations (TMOs) in the Twin Cities metropolitan area that exclusively or primarily serve Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Bloomington.

Ch. 75, art. 1, § 4, effective July 1, 2015.

\$29.7 million of the 2013 appropriation for Southwest light rail transit development was canceled. The general fund appropriation for 2016 to the council for transit operations was increased by the same amount.

Ch. 75, art. 1, § 4, effective July 1, 2015, and § 6, effective May 23, 2015.

The Transportation Advisory Board (TAB) is expanded to include an elected official from a city participating in the replacement service program (opt-outs), appointed by the Suburban Transit Association.

Ch. 75, art. 2, § 46, amending Minn. Stat. § 473.146, subd. 4, effective May 23, 2015.

Clean Water Council Membership

The Metropolitan Council and the University of Minnesota are no longer voting members on the Clean Water Council. In addition, these two entities will appoint their nonvoting representatives themselves, instead of the governor. The change was made because the council and the university are sometimes given direct appropriations from the fund.

1st spec. sess. ch. 2, art. 2, § 16, amending Minn. Stat. § 114D.30, subd. 2, effective July 1, 2015.

Metropolitan Area Water Supply Planning

The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy Advisory Committee was modified to distinguish the policy and technical advice needed. The committee now includes representatives from Saint Paul and Minneapolis water agencies and adds a new Metropolitan Area Water Supply Technical Advisory Committee. The Metropolitan Area Water Supply Policy Advisory Committee must report to the Metropolitan Council, the Legislative Water Commission, and the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees responsible for environment and natural resources every five years, beginning February 15, 2017. The council was appropriated \$400,000 for these advisory committees.

In addition, the law was changed so that metropolitan water supply plans do not have to be consistent with the metropolitan area master water supply plan—which is different from the policy plan.

1st spec. sess. ch. 4, art. 4, §§ 97, 130, amending Minn. Stat. §§ 103G.291, subd. 3 473.1565, effective June 14, 2015.

**Metropolitan Parks;
Interest Earnings**

A 1985 law directed certain interest earnings to the development of the North Mississippi Regional Park. This provision is overridden and beginning in 2018, the Metropolitan Council is directed to use the interest earnings for all regional recreational open spaces lands under the jurisdiction of the Metropolitan Council. By then it is expected that the natural-filtration swimming pool in Webber Park (now part of the North Mississippi Regional Park) will be completed with the money from the interest earnings.

1st spec. sess., ch. 4, art. 4, § 138, effective January 1, 2018 (the original law is Laws 1985, 1st spec. sess. ch. 15, § 5, subd. 2, para. (b), and Laws 1987, ch. 384, art. 3, § 45).