

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H. F. 3207

DATE: February 20, 2002

Version: First Engrossment

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Subject: Prohibiting Certain Manure Lagoons; Limiting Signatures on a Petition for EAW

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Overview

As one element in a substantial bill dealing with animal feedlots, the 1998 Legislature passed a section of temporary law to suspend the issuance of permits for the construction of open-air, clay, earthen, or flexible membrane lined swine waste lagoons. House File 3207 would make this prohibition permanent and proposes coding so that the 1998 temporary law would become part of Minnesota Statutes. Also, H.F. 3207 amends a provision requiring that an environmental assessment worksheet be prepared for a proposed action if 25 or more persons sign a petition. The amendment would stipulate that if the proposed action involves animal agriculture, the signers must reside or own property within five miles of the site, or be within the county of the proposed action.

Section

- 1 **Swine lagoon permit requirements.** Makes permanent a formerly temporary provision prohibiting the PCA and counties from issuing new permits for open-air swine waste lagoons constructed of clay, earth, or flexible membranes. [Concrete-lined lagoons are not prohibited.] This section is effective the day following final enactment.
- 2 **Environmental assessment worksheet.** Under existing law, a petition signed by 25 individuals requires the preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet on a proposed action. This section amends the law to require that if the proposed action involves animal agriculture, all 25 of the signers must reside or own property within five miles of the site, or within the same county as the site.