# HOUSE RESEARCH
# Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 2994 **DATE:** March 31, 2004

**Version:** As introduced including author's amendment H2994A1

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**Subject:** Reestablishing the Aitkin Drainage and Conservancy District

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## Overview

Reestablishes the Aitkin Drainage and Conservancy District. Effective the day following final enactment; the district expires December 31, 2008.

**Section**

**1** **Aitkin Drainage and Conservancy District.** Reestablishes the Aitkin Drainage and Conservancy District that was abolished in 1987.

The bill is effective the day following final enactment, but the district sunsets December 31, 2008.

In 1986 and 1987, these drainage and conservancy districts were abolished as part of the repeal of the old "ditch laws." The Army Corp of Engineers has informed Aitkin County that if the district's ditches and easements are not maintained, it will not be eligible for any federal funds for flood purposes. There are funds remaining from the Aitkin Drainage and Conservancy District that are in a county fund. However, Aitkin County officials do not feel the money can be spent nor can they have access to the property without legislation authorizing it. This bill reestablishes the district so that work can be done (some trees need to be removed) and that that action will allow them to qualify for federal funds.

The district is abolished December 31, 2008. This will give the district time to plan for how these issues should be addressed in the long term (i.e., may establish a local and water planning board, watershed, etc.).