

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 3546

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### Overview

This bill incorporates several policy items heard by the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Finance committee this session. Many of these items were also included in HF3810, the former omnibus agriculture bill. HF3810 was recalled by the chairman's request from the general register and re-referred back to the Agriculture, Environment, and Natural Resources Finance committee where certain policy provisions from HF3810 were incorporated into this bill.

#### Section

- 1 Compensation required.** Puts a \$100 floor and \$20,000 per claim cap on state compensation paid to owners of livestock destroyed or crippled by a gray wolf. Puts a \$100,000 per calendar year cap on combined compensation paid under this program and another statutory program (see section 2) providing compensation for crops damaged or destroyed by elk.
- 2 Compensation.** Puts a \$100,000 per calendar year cap on combined payments for crop damage and yield loss caused by elk and the compensation program for livestock destroyed or crippled by a gray wolf (see section 1).
- 3 Authority of state board.** Grants the Board of Animal Health the power to test or require tests of any bovine or cervidae in the state when the Board deems it necessary in order to achieve or maintain federal bovine tuberculosis accredited free state or zone status.
- 4 State fair camping area.** Requires the State Agricultural Society to operate and maintain a

## Section

camping area on the State Fairgrounds during the Minnesota Street Rod Association's "Back to the 50s" event.

### **5 Personal responsibility in food consumption act.**

**Subdivision 1. Title.** States that this act may be cited as the Personal Responsibility in Food Consumption Act.

**Subd. 2. Definitions.** Defines the terms "long-term consumption" and "party" for use in this law.

**Subd. 3. Immunity from civil liability.** Grants named stages of the food industry value chain (e.g. growers, manufacturers, packers, marketers, sellers, etc.) immunity from civil liability based on any individual's or group of individuals' long-term consumption of a food or nonalcoholic beverage resulting in weight gain or obesity.

**Subd. 4. Actions permitted.** States that subdivision 3 does not apply to a claim of weight gain or obesity proximately caused by (1) the material violation of state or federal adulteration or misbranding regulations or (2) any other material violation of state or federal food regulation related to the manufacturing, marketing, distribution, advertising, labeling, or sale of food.

**Effective date:** This section is effective the day after final enactment and applies to any action brought by any party on or after the effective date.

### **6 Energy and conservation; study .** Directs the commissioner of agriculture, in consultation with the Minnesota Resource Conservation and Development Council, the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the commissioner of natural resources, to study the feasibility of developing energy sources relating to land enrolled in federal farm or state easement programs. Requires a report and presentation of study findings to the governor and legislature by February 15, 2007.

### **7 University of Minnesota licensing and Minnesota market impact study.** Requests that that University of Minnesota establish a task force to study the market impact of its germplasm licensing agreements on state agricultural producers and to make recommendations to the legislature and the Board of Regents on ways to mitigate any negative impacts found. Lists organizations to be represented on the task force. Requires the task force to report to the higher education committees of the house and senate by January 15, 2007.

### **8 Repealer.** Repeals a statutory requirement that the commissioner of agriculture present a biennial "report of the department" to the governor and the legislature.