

**Subject** Administrative Penalty Orders/Lawns to Legumes

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## Overview

This bill would increase the maximum administrative penalty order (APO) amount the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), counties, and watershed districts may use for violations of riparian buffer requirements. It would also make certain data collected under the lawns to legumes program private.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <b>Authority to issue penalty.</b><br>Modifies BWSR's existing general APO authority to allow it to be used for riparian buffer violations (resulting in an increase in the maximum penalty amount from \$500 to \$10,000) and specifies that APO penalties issued by BWSR may be forgiven if the board determines sufficient steps have been taken to resolve noncompliance. |
| 2 | <b>Authority to issue penalty orders; counties and watershed districts.</b><br>Increases the maximum APO amount that a county or watershed district may impose for violations of riparian buffer requirements from \$500 to \$10,000 and makes conforming changes as a result of sections 1 and 4.  |
| 3 | <b>Lawns to legumes program.</b><br>States that data on individuals who apply for assistance under the lawns to legumes program are classified as private under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act.  |
| 4 | <b>Corrective actions.</b><br>Allows BWSR to use its general APO authority for purposes of enforcing riparian buffer requirements.  |



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