

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 265

SESSION: 2006 Regular Session

TOPIC: Beekeeping; grain buyer financial statements; licensing impact study

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Overview

This act contains several provisions related to agriculture. Beekeeping regulations are repealed and replaced with a section authorizing requested bee inspections and other services. Changes are made to the financial documents that licensed grain buyers are required to submit. The University of Minnesota is required to study and report on the impact its germplasm licensing agreements have on Minnesota agricultural producers. The act also repeals the requirement that the Department of Agriculture submit a biennial report to the legislature and governor.

Section

1 Inspections and services; fees.

Subdivision 1. Definitions. Section 6 (below) repeals all sections of Minn. Stat. Chapter 19 (Apiaries). This subdivision defines several terms previously defined in Chapter 19 and used in this new section 17.445, including "apiary," "bees," "bee equipment," and "commissioner."

Subd. 2. Purpose. States the reason for this section-to ensure that beekeepers in Minnesota retain access to foreign and domestic markets.

Subd. 3. Inspections and other services. Authorizes the commissioner of agriculture to make, upon request, inspections for sale of bees, bee equipment, or appliances or

Section

perform other necessary services.

Subd. 4. Fees. Authorizes the commissioner to charge a fee or charge for expenses to recover the cost of performing inspections and necessary services. Requires the commissioner to provide the person who requests the inspections or services with an estimate of fees if the person so requests. Requires that all fees or other charges raised be deposited in the agricultural fund in the state treasury.

- 2** **Technical change.** Amends §28A.15, subdivision 4, to remove the reference to chapter 19 permittees.
- 3** **Financial statements.** Alters grain buyer reporting options. Removes the option to submit a reviewed financial statement or audit performed by an independent public accountant. Adds the option to have a compilation report prepared by a management firm approved by the commissioner or an independent public accountant.
- 4** **University of Minnesota licensing and Minnesota market impact study.** Requires the University of Minnesota to establish a task force to study the 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. Requests that the University and the licensee in the MN#1914 agreement refrain from implementing their licensing arrangement until the task force has reported its findings to the legislature. Requires the task force to report to the higher education committees of the house and senate by January 15, 2007.
- 5** **Appropriation.** Reduces the Department of Agriculture's general fund appropriation in 2006 and 2007 to reflect the repeal of most beekeeping duties.
- 6** **Repealer.** Repeals all existing beekeeping laws and a statutory requirement that the commissioner of agriculture present a biennial "report of the department" to the governor and the legislature.
- 7** **Effective date.** Sections 1 to 5 are effective the day following final enactment.