

House Research Act Summary

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Effective retroactively from December 27, 2003, this law authorizes establishment of the Central Iron Range Sanitary Sewer District by resolution of any two or more of the following municipalities in St. Louis County: the cities of Buhl, Chisholm, and Kinney, and the towns of Balkan and Great Scott. It permits a municipality to hold a referendum on whether to join.

A law establishing the district was initially enacted in 2002 and required local approval, which was not completed because the 2002 law incorrectly referred to Kinney as a town instead of a city and other provisions that apparently did not meet the desires of the members of the proposed district.

In 2003, a bill was introduced with the entire text of the enabling legislation with the corrections and changes the members of the proposed district wanted. Again, it required local approval to take effect. At some point before it was enacted, the bill was amended so that it only contained the sections of the 2002 law that were being amended. Obviously, in amending the bill this way, it was not understood that the 2002 law had not taken effect. So even though local approval was completed, it was for amendments to a law that did not take effect.

In 2008, a corrective measure was enacted providing that the 2002 law with the 2003 changes would be effective upon, once again, local approval of all the effected local governmental units, and all of them did so except for one township, whose local approval certificate was filed with the Secretary of State one day late thereby invalidating the corrective measure.

This law is substantially the same as the 2002 and 2003 legislation establishing the district except that it now does not include Hibbing and that it is permissive authority and does not require local approval.

Finally, this law amends the 2006 bond appropriation for the district so the money is appropriated to the city of Hibbing for its wastewater treatment plant improvements, effective May 21, 2009.