

Chapter 47

2022 Regular Session

Subject Agriculture
Bill H.F. 3217
Analyst Colbey Sullivan
Date April 21, 2022

Overview

This act classifies the identity of individuals who contact the state's Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline, or who otherwise seek help with a mental or behavioral health issue from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) or an entity that receives pass-through funding from the MDA.

The act also provides \$1 million to MDA to respond to the avian influenza outbreak currently affecting commercial poultry farmers and backyard flocks in Minnesota, and authorizes MDA to transfer some or all of this amount to the Board of Animal Health.

Governor Tim Walz signed this act into law on April 8, 2022.

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

1	Mental or behavioral health data.
----------	--

Modifies the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act to prevent public access to information collected and maintained by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Minnesota state college and university system, and other pass-through recipients when that information identifies an individual who (1) sought assistance with a mental or behavioral health issue, or (2) contacted the Minnesota Farm and Rural Helpline. In addition to information identifying the individual, this section also classifies any information provided by the individual that identifies another person. Allows the entities to release this private or nonpublic information in an emergency if necessary to protect the health or safety of any person.

Under the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, there is a general presumption that information collected by the state, a statewide system, or a political subdivision is public and accessible by the public for both inspection and copying unless there is federal law, a state statute, or a temporary classification that shields the information

Section	Description
---------	-------------

from public view (Minn. Stat. § 13.01). This act establishes an exception to this presumption for the specified information.

Effective date: This section took effect on April 9, 2022.

2 Appropriation; agricultural emergency account.

Transfers \$1 million to the existing agricultural emergency account in the agricultural fund. By law, money in this account is appropriated to MDA to respond to agricultural emergencies. Provides that until December 31st of this year, MDA may (1) use money in this account to respond to the avian influenza outbreak, including testing supplies, and (2) transfer money in the account to the Board of Animal Health for its response to the avian influenza outbreak, including surveillance.

Effective date: This section took effect on April 9, 2022.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155