This bill provides for the establishment of the Cedar Lake area water and sanitary sewer district, which would include the city of New Prague, and the townships of Helena and Cedar Lake in Scott county.

1 Definitions. Defines for the purposes of the bill creating the Cedar Lake area water and sanitary sewer district the following terms: Cedar Lake area water and sanitary sewer district, board, person, local governmental units (Scott county, New Prague, and Helena and Cedar Lake townships), acquisition and betterment, agency (MPCA), sewage, pollution of water, sewer system, treatment works, disposal system, interceptor, district disposal system, municipality (town or statutory or home rule charter city), total costs of acquisition and betterment, current costs, and resident.

2 Water and sanitary sewer board. Provides for a seven-member board to control and manage the district, which includes Helena and Cedar Lake townships, and the city of New Prague. Establishes the board as a political subdivision and public corporation. Provides for the appointment and qualifications of the board members. Provides for filling vacancies, removing members, oath of office, and compensation.

3 General provisions for organization and operation of board. Specifies how meetings may be called, what constitutes a quorum. Provides for selection of officers, regular meetings, special meetings, vote required to act. Requires meetings to be open to the public. Provides for the members to select a chair from among themselves. Specifies the term and duties of the chair. Provides for the secretary and treasurer of the board, specifies the duties. Provides that the executive director and other district employees are public employees. Requires the board to adopt resolutions or bylaws governing board actions, personnel administration, finances, etc. Permits the board to obtain surety bonds for its officers and employees, and to procure property and liability insurance.

4 General powers of the board. Provides the board with all powers necessary or convenient to discharge its duties, including but not limited to those listed in this section relating to: lawsuits; contracts; accepting gifts, grants or loans; entering into joint powers agreements; study and
investigation; procurement of professional services; acquiring and disposing property; use of rights of way; and agreements with other local governments, the state or federal government.

5 **Comprehensive plan.** Requires the board to adopt a comprehensive plan for the collection, treatment, and disposal of sewage in the district. Specifies the contents of the plan. Requires the plan to be subject to Scott county planning and zoning. Requires a public hearing on the proposed plan prior to adoption of the plan. Prohibits local governments from constructing new sewers or disposal facilities unless they find the projects are in accordance with the adopted district plan. Limits connections to the system.

6 **Powers to issue obligations and impose special assessments.** Permits the board to issue obligations and impose special assessments against benefitted property in the district.

7 **System expansion; application to cities.** Permits the board to establish sewer and water systems in an area in the district that is organized as a city if requested by the city or ordered by the pollution control agency.

8 **Sewage collection and disposal; powers.** Permits the discharge of treated water into the waters of the state. Permits the board to require persons in the district to connect to and discharge into the system. Permits the board to regulate connections to and discharges into the system. Requires charges to comply with applicable state and federal law.

9 **Budget.** Requires the board to prepare and adopt an annual budget and specifies the contents of the budget.

10 **Allocation of costs.** Defines current costs to include the costs of administration, operation, maintenance, debt service, and costs of acquisition and betterment of the system to be paid during the year. Provides for current costs to be allocated equitably and by resolution of the board.

11 **Tax levies.** To accomplish duties imposed on it, gives the board the powers of a statutory city, and the powers of a municipality with regard to eminent domain, special assessments for local improvements, public indebtedness, taxation for a disposal system, municipal waterworks, sewers, drains, and stormsewers, and joint powers. Permits the board to levy taxes in the district for payment of current costs under section 10, free from any limit.

12 **Public hearing and special assessments.** Requires a public hearing on proposed projects that may incur costs that will be allocated. Requires notice to benefitted properties of assessments proposed. Requires a report on the feasibility of the proposed project before calling for a hearing on it. Permits the board to take action in an emergency. Permits the board to specially assess part or all of a proposed project.

13 **Bonds, certificates, and other obligations.** Permits the board to issue short-term debt, not to exceed 50 percent of the total amount of tax collections and other revenues expected for the year. Permits the board to issue debt to meet an emergency. Permits the board to issue general obligation debt and exempts it from election.

14 **Depositories.** Requires the board to designate one or more banks or trusts as the official depository of money for the board.

15 **Money, accounts, and investments.** Directs how money must be handled and accounted for. Requires an independent audit of the district's books and records.

16 **Service contracts with governmental entities outside the jurisdiction of the board.** Permits the board to furnish services to other governmental entities under contract.

17 **Contracts for construction, materials, supplies, and equipment.** Requires acquisition and betterment projects to be approved by the MPCA if required. Provides for contracts to be awarded as provided in the Uniform Municipal Contracting law.

18 **Property exempt from taxation.** Exempts the district's property from state or local taxes, but
requires the district to pay special assessments.

19 Relation to existing laws. Provides for the act to be given full effect notwithstanding any other law, but preserves the powers of the pollution control agency.

20 Effective date. Effective upon local approval.