Overview

House File 1558 updates several aspects of laws dealing with transactions between buyers and sellers of grain and produce. Modifies the program for meat and poultry inspection.

Section

1 **Value-added agricultural product processing and marketing grant program.** Expands the possible uses for development grants to include more types of development, legal, financing, and management assistance.

2 **Minnesota Grown matching grant funds.** Allows a broader range of gifts, services, and activities to account against the required 1-to-4 private money to public money match.

3 **Official title of board; meetings.** Simplifies some existing language relating to the board; requires the board to meet only as needed (rather than each year prior to June 15); and removes reference to specific grain grading criteria.

4 **Appeals; procedure.** Updates archaic language and removes a provision allowing for refundability of the grain inspection appeal fee if the appeal is sustained.

5 **Administration; appropriation.** Removes a provision of current law that makes different parties responsible for the inspection and weighing fees depending on whether the grain is in storage or in transit.

6 **Application; aquatic pest control license.** Removes a requirement that a person applying for a license as a master aquatic pest applicator must have at least 1,600 hours of qualifying experience in the prior 4 year period.

7 **Renewal; aquatic pest control license.** Allows 12 months (rather than 3) after expiration for renewal of an aquatic pest control license.

8 **Fees; aquatic pest control license.** Establishes March 1st as the deadline for filing an application for an aquatic pest control license without a late penalty.
9 Semiannual statement; fertilizer distributors. Fertilizer distributors who distribute solely by custom application are not required to file tonnage reports with the department.

10 Wholesale produce dealer. Adds a new entity to the definition of "wholesale produce dealer." The definition will now also include a person who contracts with a producer to grow, raise, or provide produce.

11 Producer defined. Adds a definition of "producer" to the "wholesale produce dealer" law. Producer will now mean a person who produces produce (perishable fresh fruits and vegetables; milk, cream, and their products; and poultry and poultry products) in a quantity exceeding one's family use.

12 Prohibited acts. One provision in the list of 13 actions prohibited by the "wholesale produce dealer act" is changed. Existing language prohibits a failure to honor contract terms for the "purchase" or sale of produce. The new language will prohibit failure for the "production" or sale of produce.

13 Meat and poultry rules. Updates a reference to federal meat and poultry code.

14 Policy. Adds "poultry" to the list of several meat and meat food products that are controlled under the meat inspection sections.

15 Definition; animals. Adds poultry to the existing definition of animals.

16 Definition; federal poultry inspection act. Adds a new definition for the federal poultry products inspection act.

17 Definition; poultry. Adds a new definition for poultry.

18 Inspection; slaughter and carcasses. Adds poultry to the list of animals to be inspected if processed by a custom processor.

19 Designation. Designates the department of agriculture as the state agency responsible for enforcing federal meat and poultry inspection laws and rules.

20 Advice, consultation. The commissioner of agriculture can recommend persons to serve on federal panels related to poultry product inspection in addition to the federal meat inspection program.

21 Citation. Changes the name of the chapter to the Minnesota meat and poultry inspection act.

22 Cash sales; manner of payment. For purposes of seller protection under a grain buyer's bond, provisions relating to sales that are not cash sales are removed from the subdivision dealing only with cash sales.

23 Financial statements. Updates existing language regarding the type of financial information required annually of a licensed grain buyer.

24 Written voluntary extension of credit contracts; form. Adds clarifying language indicating that unless a seller's contract includes a signature acknowledging that they agree that the sale is a credit sale unprotected by a grain buyers bond, the sale will be treated as a protected cash sale.

25 Definition; open storage. Adds a new definition for "open storage" to the existing Grain Storage Act. "Open storage" is products received by a warehouse but for which receipts have not yet been issued or payment made.

26 Grain delivered considered stored. Allows for grain to be held in open storage for up to 6 months after delivery, or longer if a depositor has signed an authorizing statement.

27 Liability. Clarifies the responsibility of a public grain warehouse operator to properly manage stored grain.

28 Repealer. Repeals section 31A.28 which was a previous reference to federal meat inspection rules.