

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill makes a number of changes to the Clean Water Partnership Law which establishes the Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program that provides matching grants, loans, and technical assistance to local units of government to address water pollution.

- 1 **Review and ranking of applications.** Amends § 17.117, subd. 6a. Technical.
- 2 **Purpose.** Amends § 103F.705. Modifies the purpose of the Clean Water Partnership Law.
- 3 **Project.** Amends § 103F.711, subd. 8. Modifies the definition of "project" for purposes of the Clean Water Partnership Law, including expanding the definition to include projects identifying any source of water pollution (rather than restricting it to nonpoint sources as is the case under current law).
- 4 **Clean water partnership program established.** Amends § 103F.715. Makes technical changes and expands the program to all pollution by removing a reference to "nonpoint" sources.
- 5 **Grants.** Amends § 103F.725, subd. 1. Technical.
- 6 **Loans.** Amends § 103F.725, subd. 1a. Increases, from \$36,000,000 to \$50,000,000, the amount of the balance in the clean water revolving fund that may be used for the clean water partnership loan program.
- 7 **Eligibility.** Amends § 103F.731, subd. 2. States that local units of government are eligible for assistance under the program and removes the requirement to provide evidence that the applicant has consulted with the local soil and water conservation district and watershed district. Requires all project proposals to be included in a local water management plan.
- 8 **Agency review of proposals.** Amends § 103F.735. Requires priority to be given to proposals that demonstrate participation, coordination, and cooperation with "local stakeholders" (rather than specifically requiring participation, coordination, and cooperation with the local soil and water conservation district or watershed district as is currently required). Removes the requirement to give priority to projects with goals and objectives that are consistent with state water quality management plans and other state and local management plans.

- 9** **Implementation according to law and contract.** Amends § 103F.741, subd. 1. Technical.
- 10** **Rules.** Amends § 103F.745. Modifies the rulemaking authority of the Pollution Control Agency for purposes of the Clean Water Partnership Law by eliminating specific rulemaking requirements to provide procedures for developing, evaluating, and implementing best management practices, and allowing the PCA to adopt rules necessary for the implementation of federal programs to protect and improve water quality (rather than only federal programs to control nonpoint source water pollution).
- 11** **Nonpoint source pollution management plan and program evaluation.** Amends § 103F.751. Eliminates a requirement that the PCA work through the Environmental Quality Board to coordinate nonpoint source pollution control activities and programs and eliminates a requirement of the agency to evaluate the effectiveness of programs in achieving water quality goals and provide recommendations to the legislature.
- 12** **Revisor's instruction.** Technical.
- 13** **Repealer.** Repeals § 103F.711, subd. 7 (definition of "official controls"); § 103F.721, (statewide water assessments), § 103F.731, subd. 1, (eligibility requirements); and § 103F.761 (project coordination team).