

Subject Pesticide
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Overview

This bill would double the monetary penalty for a person who applies a pesticide in a manner that results in damage to adjacent state outdoor recreation land.

The state Outdoor Recreation System includes state parks; state recreation areas; state trails; state scientific and natural areas; state wilderness areas; state forests; state wildlife management areas; state aquatic management areas; state water-access sites; state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers; state historic sites; and MnDOT rest areas (Minn. Stat. § 86A.04).

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is responsible for enforcing state pesticide laws (Minn. Stat. §§ 18B.03 and 18D.301). Under current law, MDA must consider the gravity of the violation, the violator's culpability, and other factors when determining the size of a fine or administrative penalty (Minn. Stat. § 18D.315). MDA may assess a civil penalty of up to \$7,500 per day for pesticide violations (Minn. Stat. § 18D.325).