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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4604

03/24/2022 Authored by Becker-Finn and Keeler
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to environment; repealing environmental impact statement exemption for
1.3 engineered wood product manufacturing facility; repealing Laws 2021, First Special
1.4 Session chapter 6, article 2, section 129.

1.5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.6 Section 1. ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITY;
1.7 PERMITS.

1.8 The commissioners of natural resources and the Pollution Control Agency may not
1.9 award a permit for an engineered wood product manufacturing facility project that was
1.10 exempted from environmental impact statement requirements under Laws 2021, First Special
1.11 Session chapter 6, article 2, section 129, prior to its repeal, unless an environmental impact
1.12 statement has been completed or the project no longer meets environmental impact statement
1.13 requirements.

1.14 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

1.15 Sec. 2. REPEALER.

1.16 Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 2, section 129, is repealed.

1.17 EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.

Laws 2021, First Special Session chapter 6, article 2, section 129

Sec. 129. FACILITATE ENGINEERED WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING FACILITY; ITASCA COUNTY.

Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, a corporation or other legal business entity that proposes an economic development project to build an engineered wood product manufacturing facility in Itasca County and that receives a written offer of financial incentives to be provided for that project from both the Department of Employment and Economic Development and the Department of Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation anytime during 2021 is exempt from the requirement to conduct a mandatory environmental impact statement that is triggered solely by the proposed facility's gross floor space area. The business entity is still required to conduct an environmental assessment worksheet (EAW) for any mandatory EAW categories, along with any subsequent environmental permitting required for the project after environmental review is complete. For any work in wetlands that cannot be avoided or further minimized for this project, the business entity must conduct all required wetland permitting and agree to mitigate for any wetlands impacts at a ratio of 1.5 times the required mitigation ratio determined by regulatory agencies. Any wetland credits must be purchased in the same watershed.