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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 935

02/16/2015 Authored by Johnson, C., and Bly

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to water; establishing a nitrate reduction program; appropriating money;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 103B.

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

1.5 Section 1. **[103B.103] NITRATE REDUCTION PROGRAM.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. Program established. The Board of Water and Soil Resources, in
1.7 consultation with the University of Minnesota, shall establish a watershed management
1.8 program to reduce nitrates. The program shall:

1.9 (1) build local watershed management capacity by developing leadership among
1.10 landowners and others in watersheds impaired by nitrates;

1.11 (2) strengthen partnerships among technical providers, educators, and landowners
1.12 through working groups led by local citizens at the watershed level;

1.13 (3) build local capacity to assess water quality, establish watershed goals, target and
1.14 implement practices to address nitrates, and measure the impacts; and

1.15 (4) provide incentive payments to assist with and encourage the implementation of
1.16 water quality best management practices.

1.17 Subd. 2. Coordinator. The board shall assign a coordinator to each watershed
1.18 containing waters impaired by nitrates. The coordinator shall support interested parties as
1.19 they organize, assess water quality issues in the watershed, establish goals, implement
1.20 best management practices, and measure results. The board shall ensure that the process
1.21 is open and public.

1.22 Subd. 3. Goals. The board shall establish guidance to be used by watersheds in
1.23 establishing three-year goals and methods for evaluating progress in meeting the goals.

2.1 Subd. 4. **Incentive payments.** The board shall develop incentive payment rates
2.2 for various practices that reduce nitrates and award incentive grants to participating
2.3 individuals and entities with available funds.

2.4 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.5 \$..... in fiscal year 2016 is appropriated from the fund to the Board of Water and
2.6 Soil Resources to establish the voluntary watershed management program and provide
2.7 incentive payments under section 1.