

**SENATE**  
**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 2230**

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DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
03/08/2016	4887	Introduction and first reading Referred to Environment and Energy

1.1 A bill for an act  
 1.2 relating to environment; reinstating the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
 1.3 Citizens' Board; amending Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, sections  
 1.4 116.02; 116.03, subdivisions 1, 2a; repealing Laws 2015, First Special Session  
 1.5 chapter 4, article 4, section 149.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 116.02, is amended to read:

1.8 **116.02 POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY, CREATION AND POWERS.**

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** A pollution control agency, designated as the Minnesota  
 1.10 Pollution Control Agency, is hereby created. The agency consists of the commissioner  
 1.11 and eight members appointed by the governor, by and with the advice and consent of the  
 1.12 senate. One member must be a person knowledgeable in the field of agriculture, and one  
 1.13 must be a representative of organized labor.

1.14 Subd. 2a. **Terms, compensation, removal, vacancies.** The membership terms,  
 1.15 compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the agency is as provided  
 1.16 in section 15.0575.

1.17 Subd. 3a. **Membership.** The membership of the Pollution Control Agency must  
 1.18 be broadly representative of the skills and experience necessary to effectuate the policy  
 1.19 of sections 116.01 to 116.075, except that no member other than the commissioner may  
 1.20 be an officer or employee of the state or federal government. Only two members at one  
 1.21 time may be officials or employees of a municipality or any governmental subdivision, but  
 1.22 neither may be a member ex officio or otherwise on the management board of a municipal  
 1.23 sanitary sewage disposal system.

2.1 Subd. 4a. **Chair.** The commissioner serves as chair of the agency. The agency shall  
2.2 elect other officers as the agency deems necessary.

2.3 Subd. 5. **Agency is successor to commission.** The Pollution Control Agency is  
2.4 the successor of the Water Pollution Control Commission, and all powers and duties now  
2.5 vested in or imposed upon said commission by chapter 115, or any act amendatory thereof  
2.6 or supplementary thereto, are hereby transferred to, imposed upon, and vested in the  
2.7 commissioner of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

2.8 Subd. 6a. **Required decisions.** The agency shall make final decisions on the  
2.9 following matters:

2.10 (1) a petition for the preparation of an environmental assessment worksheet, if the  
2.11 project proposer or a person commenting on the proposal requests that the decision be  
2.12 made by the agency and the agency requests that it make the decision under subdivision 8a;

2.13 (2) the need for an environmental impact statement following preparation of an  
2.14 environmental assessment worksheet under applicable rules, if:

2.15 (i) the agency has received a request for an environmental impact statement;

2.16 (ii) the project proposer or a person commenting on the proposal requests that the  
2.17 declaration be made by the agency and the agency requests that it make the decision  
2.18 under subdivision 8a; or

2.19 (iii) the commissioner is recommending preparation of an environmental impact  
2.20 statement;

2.21 (3) the scope and adequacy of environmental impact statements;

2.22 (4) issuance, reissuance, modification, or revocation of a permit if:

2.23 (i) a variance is sought in the permit application or a contested case hearing request  
2.24 is pending; or

2.25 (ii) the permit applicant, the permittee, or a person commenting on the permit action  
2.26 requests that the decision be made by the agency and the agency requests that it make  
2.27 the decision under subdivision 8a;

2.28 (5) final adoption or amendment of agency rules for which a public hearing is  
2.29 required under section 14.25 or for which the commissioner decides to proceed directly to  
2.30 a public hearing under section 14.14, subdivision 1;

2.31 (6) approval or denial of an application for a variance from an agency rule if:

2.32 (i) granting the variance request would change an air, soil, or water quality standard;

2.33 (ii) the commissioner has determined that granting the variance would have a  
2.34 significant environmental impact; or

3.1 (iii) the applicant or a person commenting on the variance request requests that the  
3.2 decision be made by the agency and the agency requests that it make the decision under  
3.3 subdivision 8a; and

3.4 (7) whether to reopen, rescind, or reverse a decision of the agency.

3.5 Subd. 7a. **Additional decisions.** The commissioner may request that the agency  
3.6 make additional decisions or provide advice to the commissioner.

3.7 Subd. 8a. **Other actions.** Any other action not specifically within the authority of  
3.8 the commissioner must be made by the agency if:

3.9 (1) prior to the commissioner's final decision on the action, one or more members  
3.10 of the agency notify the commissioner of their request that the decision be made by the  
3.11 agency; or

3.12 (2) any person submits a petition to the commissioner requesting that the decision be  
3.13 made by the agency and the commissioner grants the petition.

3.14 If the commissioner denies a petition submitted under clause (2), the commissioner  
3.15 shall advise the agency and the petitioner of the reasons for the denial.

3.16 Subd. 9a. **Informing public.** The commissioner shall inform interested persons  
3.17 as appropriate in public notices and other public documents of their right to request the  
3.18 agency to make decisions in specific matters provided in subdivision 6a and the right  
3.19 of agency members to request that decisions be made by the agency as provided in  
3.20 subdivision 8a. The commissioner shall also regularly inform the agency of activities that  
3.21 have broad policy implications or potential environmental significance and of activities in  
3.22 which the public has exhibited substantial interest.

3.23 Subd. 11a. **Changing decisions.** (a) The agency must not reopen, rescind, or reverse  
3.24 a decision of the agency except upon:

3.25 (1) the affirmative vote of two-thirds of the agency; or

3.26 (2) a finding that there was an irregularity in a hearing related to the decision, an  
3.27 error of law, or a newly discovered material issue of fact.

3.28 (b) The requirements in paragraph (a) are minimum requirements and do not limit  
3.29 the agency's authority under sections 14.06 and 116.07, subdivision 3, to adopt rules:

3.30 (1) applying the requirement in paragraph (a), clause (1) or (2), to certain decisions  
3.31 of the agency; or

3.32 (2) establishing additional or more stringent requirements for reopening, rescinding,  
3.33 or reversing decisions of the agency.

3.34 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 116.03, subdivision 1, is  
3.35 amended to read:

4.1 Subdivision 1. **Office.** (a) The Office of Commissioner of the Pollution Control  
4.2 Agency is created and is under the supervision and control of the commissioner, who is  
4.3 appointed by the governor under the provisions of section 15.06.

4.4 (b) The commissioner may appoint a deputy commissioner and assistant  
4.5 commissioners who shall be in the unclassified service.

4.6 (c) The commissioner shall make all decisions on behalf of the agency that are not  
4.7 required to be made by the agency under section 116.02.

4.8 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2015 Supplement, section 116.03, subdivision 2a, is  
4.9 amended to read:

4.10 Subd. 2a. **Mission; efficiency.** It is part of the agency's mission that, within the  
4.11 agency's resources, the commissioner and the members of the agency shall endeavor to:

4.12 (1) prevent the waste or unnecessary spending of public money;

4.13 (2) use innovative fiscal and human resource practices to manage the state's  
4.14 resources and operate the agency as efficiently as possible;

4.15 (3) coordinate the agency's activities wherever appropriate with the activities of  
4.16 other governmental agencies;

4.17 (4) use technology where appropriate to increase agency productivity, improve  
4.18 customer service, increase public access to information about government, and increase  
4.19 public participation in the business of government;

4.20 (5) utilize constructive and cooperative labor-management practices to the extent  
4.21 otherwise required by chapters 43A and 179A;

4.22 (6) report to the legislature on the performance of agency operations and the  
4.23 accomplishment of agency goals in the agency's biennial budget according to section  
4.24 16A.10, subdivision 1; and

4.25 (7) recommend to the legislature appropriate changes in law necessary to carry out  
4.26 the mission and improve the performance of the agency.

4.27 Sec. 4. **REPEALER.**

4.28 Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 4, section 149, is repealed.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Session Laws: 16-5220

***Laws 2015, First Special Session chapter 4, article 4, section 149***

Sec. 149. **REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

The revisor of statutes shall prepare draft legislation to amend statutes to conform with structural changes to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency under sections 114 to 117 and 150. The revisor shall submit the proposed legislation to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over environment policy by January 1, 2016.