

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 3561

(SENATE AUTHORS: MORRISON, Hawj, McEwen, Hoffman and Kupec)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/12/2024	11559	Introduction and first reading Referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy
02/15/2024	11620	Author added Kupec
02/26/2024	11762a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Commerce and Consumer Protection
03/13/2024	12199	Withdrawn and re-referred to State and Local Government and Veterans
03/18/2024		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Judiciary and Public Safety

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to solid waste; establishing Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act;

1.3 authorizing rulemaking; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,

1.4 chapter 115A.

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

1.6 Section 1. [115A.144] SHORT TITLE.

1.7 Sections 115A.144 to 115A.1462 may be cited as the "Packaging Waste and Cost

1.8 Reduction Act."

1.9 Sec. 2. [115A.1441] DEFINITIONS.

1.10 Subdivision 1. **Scope.** For the purposes of sections 115A.144 to 115A.1462, the terms

1.11 in this section have the meanings given.

1.12 Subd. 2. **Advisory board.** "Advisory board" or "board" means the Producer

1.13 Responsibility Advisory Board established under section 115A.1444.

1.14 Subd. 3. **Brand.** "Brand" means a name, symbol, word, or mark that identifies a product

1.15 and attributes the product and its components, including packaging, to the brand owner.

1.16 Subd. 4. **Brand owner.** "Brand owner" means a person that owns or licenses a brand or

1.17 that otherwise has rights to market a product under the brand, whether or not the brand's

1.18 trademark is registered.

1.19 Subd. 5. **Collection rate.** "Collection rate" means the amount of a covered material by

1.20 covered materials type collected by service providers and transported for reuse, recycling,

1.21 or composting divided by the total amount of the type of a covered material by covered

2.1 materials type sold or distributed into the state by the relevant unit of measurement
2.2 established in section 115A.1451.

2.3 Subd. 6. **Compostable material.** "Compostable material" means a covered material
2.4 that:

2.5 (1) meets, and is labeled to reflect that it meets, the American Society for Testing and
2.6 Materials Standard Specification for Labeling of Plastics Designed to be Aerobically
2.7 Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities (D6400) or its successor;

2.8 (2) meets, and is labeled to reflect that it meets, the American Society for Testing and
2.9 Materials Standard Specification for Labeling of End Items that Incorporate Plastics and
2.10 Polymers as Coatings or Additives with Paper and Other Substrates Designed to be
2.11 Aerobically Composted in Municipal or Industrial Facilities (D6868) or its successor;

2.12 (3) is comprised of only wood without any coatings or additives; or

2.13 (4) is comprised of only paper without any coatings or additives.

2.14 Subd. 7. **Composting.** "Composting" means the controlled microbial degradation of
2.15 source-separated compostable materials to yield a humus-like product.

2.16 Subd. 8. **Composting rate.** "Composting rate" means the amount of compostable covered
2.17 material that is managed through composting, divided by the total amount of compostable
2.18 covered material sold or distributed into the state by the relevant unit of measurement
2.19 established in section 115A.1451.

2.20 Subd. 9. **Covered material.** "Covered material" means packaging and paper products
2.21 introduced into the state.

2.22 Subd. 10. **Covered materials type.** "Covered materials type" means a singular and
2.23 specific type of covered material that can be categorized based on distinguishing chemical
2.24 or physical properties, including properties that allow for a covered materials type to be
2.25 aggregated into a commonly defined discrete commodity category for purposes of reuse,
2.26 recycling, or composting, and based on similar uses in the form of a product or package.

2.27 Subd. 11. **Environmental impact.** "Environmental impact" means the environmental
2.28 impact of a covered material from extraction and processing of the raw materials composing
2.29 the material through manufacturing; distribution; use; recovery for reuse, recycling, or
2.30 composting; and final disposal.

2.31 Subd. 12. **Food packaging.** "Food packaging" has the meaning given in section 325F.075.

3.1 Subd. 13. **Independent auditor.** "Independent auditor" means an independent and
3.2 actively licensed certified public accountant that is:

3.3 (1) retained by a producer responsibility organization;

3.4 (2) not otherwise employed by or affiliated with a producer responsibility organization;

3.5 and

3.6 (3) qualified to conduct an audit under state law.

3.7 Subd. 14. **Infrastructure investment.** "Infrastructure investment" means an investment
3.8 by a producer responsibility organization that funds:

3.9 (1) equipment or facilities in which covered materials are prepared for reuse, recycling,
3.10 or composting;

3.11 (2) equipment or facilities used for reuse, recycling, or composting of covered materials;

3.12 or

3.13 (3) the expansion or strengthening of demand for and use of covered materials by
3.14 responsible markets in the state or region.

3.15 Subd. 15. **Introduce.** "Introduce" means to sell, offer for sale, distribute, or use to ship
3.16 a product within or into this state.

3.17 Subd. 16. **Living wage.** "Living wage" means the minimum hourly wage necessary to
3.18 allow a person working 40 hours per week to afford basic needs.

3.19 Subd. 17. **Needs assessment.** "Needs assessment" means an assessment conducted
3.20 according to section 115A.1450. Except where the context requires otherwise, needs
3.21 assessment means the most recently completed needs assessment.

3.22 Subd. 18. **Nondisclosure agreement.** "Nondisclosure agreement" means an agreement
3.23 that requires the parties to the agreement to treat private and nonpublic data submitted to
3.24 facilitate completion of a needs assessment according to the definitions and requirements
3.25 established in section 115A.06, subdivision 13.

3.26 Subd. 19. **Packaging.** "Packaging" has the meaning given in section 115A.03 and
3.27 includes food packaging.

3.28 Subd. 20. **Paper product.** "Paper product" means a product made primarily from wood
3.29 pulp or other cellulosic fibers, except that paper product does not include bound books or
3.30 products that recycling or composting facilities will not accept because of the unsafe or
3.31 unsanitary nature of the paper product.

4.1 Subd. 21. **Postconsumer recycled content.** "Postconsumer recycled content" means
4.2 the portion of a product composed of postconsumer material, expressed as a percentage of
4.3 the total weight of the product.

4.4 Subd. 22. **Producer.** (a) "Producer" means the following person responsible for
4.5 compliance with requirements under this act for a covered material sold, offered for sale,
4.6 or distributed in or into this state:

4.7 (1) for items sold in or with packaging at a physical retail location in this state:

4.8 (i) if the item is sold in or with packaging under the brand of the item manufacturer or
4.9 is sold in packaging that lacks identification of a brand, the producer is the person that
4.10 manufactures the item;

4.11 (ii) if there is no person to which item (i) applies, the producer is the person that is
4.12 licensed to manufacture and sell or offer for sale to consumers in this state an item with
4.13 packaging under the brand or trademark of another manufacturer or person;

4.14 (iii) if there is no person to which item (i) or (ii) applies, the producer is the brand owner
4.15 of the item;

4.16 (iv) if there is no person described in item (i), (ii), or (iii) within the United States, the
4.17 producer is the person who is the importer of record for the item into the United States for
4.18 use in a commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the item in this state;
4.19 or

4.20 (v) if there is no person described in items (i) to (iv), the producer is the person that first
4.21 distributes the item in or into this state;

4.22 (2) for items sold or distributed in packaging in or into this state via e-commerce, remote
4.23 sale, or distribution:

4.24 (i) for packaging used to directly protect or contain the item, the producer of the packaging
4.25 is the same as the producer identified under clause (1); and

4.26 (ii) for packaging used to ship the item to a consumer, the producer of the packaging is
4.27 the person that packages the item to be shipped to the consumer;

4.28 (3) for packaging that is a covered material and is not included in clauses (1) and (2),
4.29 the producer of the packaging is the person that first distributes the item in or into this state;

4.30 (4) for paper products that are magazines, catalogs, telephone directories, or similar
4.31 publications, the producer is the publisher;

4.32 (5) for paper products not described in clause (4):

5.1 (i) if the paper product is sold under the manufacturer's own brand, the producer is the
5.2 person that manufactures the paper product;

5.3 (ii) if there is no person to which item (i) applies, the producer is the person that is the
5.4 owner or licensee of a brand or trademark under which the paper product is used in a
5.5 commercial enterprise, sold, offered for sale, or distributed in or into this state, whether or
5.6 not the trademark is registered in this state;

5.7 (iii) if there is no person to which item (i) or (ii) applies, the producer is the brand owner
5.8 of the paper product;

5.9 (iv) if there is no person described in item (i), (ii), or (iii) within the United States, the
5.10 producer is the person that imports the paper product into the United States for use in a
5.11 commercial enterprise that sells, offers for sale, or distributes the paper product in this state;
5.12 or

5.13 (v) if there is no person described in items (i) to (iv), the producer is the person that first
5.14 distributes the paper product in or into this state; and

5.15 (6) a person is the producer of a covered material sold, offered for sale, or distributed
5.16 in or into this state, as defined in clauses (1) to (5), except:

5.17 (i) where another person has mutually signed an agreement with a producer as defined
5.18 in clauses (1) to (5) that contractually assigns responsibility to the person as the producer,
5.19 and the person has joined a registered producer responsibility organization as the responsible
5.20 producer for that covered material under this act. In the event that another person is assigned
5.21 responsibility as the producer under this subdivision, the producer under clauses (1) to (5)
5.22 must provide written certification of that contractual agreement to the producer responsibility
5.23 organization; and

5.24 (ii) if the producer described in clauses (1) to (5) is a business operated wholly or in part
5.25 as a franchise, the producer is the franchisor if that franchisor has franchisees that have a
5.26 commercial presence within the state.

5.27 (b) "Producer" does not include:

5.28 (1) government agencies, municipalities, or other political subdivisions of the state;

5.29 (2) registered 501(c)(3) charitable organizations and 501(c)(4) social welfare
5.30 organizations; or

5.31 (3) de minimis producers.

6.1 Subd. 23. **Producer responsibility organization.** "Producer responsibility organization"
6.2 means a nonprofit corporation that is tax exempt under chapter 501(c)(3) of the federal
6.3 Internal Revenue Code and that is created by a group of producers to implement activities
6.4 under this act.

6.5 Subd. 24. **Recycling.** "Recycling" has the meaning given in section 115A.03 except that
6.6 recycling does not include reuse or composting.

6.7 Subd. 25. **Recycling rate.** "Recycling rate" means the amount of covered material, in
6.8 aggregate or by individual covered materials type, managed through recycling in a calendar
6.9 year divided by the total amount of covered materials sold or distributed into the state by
6.10 the relevant unit of measurement established in section 115A.1451.

6.11 Subd. 26. **Responsible market.** "Responsible market" means a materials market that:

6.12 (1) reuses, recycles, composts, or otherwise recovers materials and disposes of
6.13 contaminants in a manner that protects the environment and minimizes risks to public health
6.14 and worker health and safety;

6.15 (2) complies with all applicable federal, state, and local statutes and rules governing
6.16 environmental, health, safety, and financial responsibility;

6.17 (3) possesses all requisite licenses and permits required by government agencies;

6.18 (4) if the market operates in the state, manages waste according to the waste management
6.19 goal and priority order of waste management practices stated in section 115A.02; and

6.20 (5) minimizes adverse impacts to environmental justice areas.

6.21 Subd. 27. **Reusable.** "Reusable" means capable of reuse.

6.22 Subd. 28. **Reuse.** "Reuse" means the return of a covered material to the marketplace and
6.23 the refilling or continued use of the covered material in the marketplace for its original
6.24 intended purpose without a change in form when the covered material is:

6.25 (1) intentionally designed and marketed to be used multiple times;

6.26 (2) designed for durability and maintenance to extend its useful life and reduce demand
6.27 for new production;

6.28 (3) supported by adequate logistics and infrastructure at a retail location, by a service
6.29 provider, or on behalf of or by a producer, that provides convenient access for return for
6.30 the purpose of refilling or continued use; and

7.1 (4) compliant with all applicable state and local statutes and rules governing health and
7.2 safety.

7.3 Subd. 29. **Reuse rate.** "Reuse rate" means the share of units of a covered material sold
7.4 or distributed into the state in a calendar year that are deemed reusable by the commissioner
7.5 according to section 115A.1451.

7.6 Subd. 30. **Service provider.** "Service provider" means an entity that collects, transfers,
7.7 sorts, processes, or otherwise prepares covered materials for reuse, recycling, or composting.
7.8 A political subdivision that provides or that contracts or otherwise arranges with another
7.9 party to provide reuse, collection, recycling, or composting services for covered materials
7.10 within its jurisdiction may be a service provider regardless of whether it provided similar
7.11 services before the approval of the applicable stewardship plan.

7.12 Subd. 31. **Third-party certification.** "Third-party certification" means certification by
7.13 an accredited independent organization that a standard or process required by this act, or a
7.14 stewardship plan approved under this act, has been achieved.

7.15 Subd. 32. **This act.** "This act" means sections 115A.144 to 115A.1462.

7.16 Subd. 33. **Toxic substance.** "Toxic substance" means hazardous waste, a problem
7.17 material, a chemical or chemical class regulated under section 115A.965, 116.943, 325F.075,
7.18 or 325F.172 to 325F.179, or a chemical of high concern identified under section 116.9402.

7.19 Subd. 34. **Waste reduction or source reduction.** "Waste reduction" or "source reduction"
7.20 has the meaning given in section 115A.03, except that waste reduction or source reduction
7.21 does not include reuse.

7.22 **Sec. 3. [115A.1442] ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

7.23 Producers must implement and finance a statewide program for packaging and paper
7.24 products in accordance with this act that encourages packaging redesign to reduce the
7.25 environmental impacts and human health impacts and that reduces generation of covered
7.26 materials waste through waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting and by providing
7.27 for negotiation and execution of agreements to collect, transport, and process used covered
7.28 materials for reuse, recycling, and composting.

8.1 Sec. 4. [115A.1443] REGISTRATION OF PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY
8.2 ORGANIZATIONS.

8.3 Subdivision 1. Annual registration. (a) By January 1, 2025, and annually thereafter,
8.4 producers must appoint a producer responsibility organization and the organization must
8.5 register with the commissioner by submitting the following:

8.6 (1) contact information for a person responsible for implementing an approved
8.7 stewardship plan;

8.8 (2) a list of all member producers that will operate under the stewardship plan
8.9 administered by the producer responsibility organization and, for each producer, a list of
8.10 all brands of the producer's covered materials introduced in this state;

8.11 (3) copies of written agreements with each producer stating that each producer agrees
8.12 to operate under an approved stewardship plan administered by the producer responsibility
8.13 organization;

8.14 (4) a list of current board members and the executive director if different than the person
8.15 responsible for implementing approved stewardship plans; and

8.16 (5) payment of the annual fee required under subdivision 2.

8.17 (b) If more than a single producer responsibility organization is established, the producers
8.18 and producer responsibility organizations must establish a coordinating body and process
8.19 to prevent redundancy of service contracts among service providers and to ensure the efficient
8.20 delivery of waste management services. The stewardship plans of all producer responsibility
8.21 organizations must be integrated into a single stewardship plan that covers all requirements
8.22 of this act and encompasses all producers when submitted to the commissioner for approval.
8.23 The annual reports of all producer responsibility organizations must be integrated into a
8.24 single annual report that covers all requirements of this act and encompasses all producers
8.25 when submitted to the commissioner.

8.26 Subd. 2. Registration fee. (a) As part of its annual registration with the commissioner,
8.27 a producer responsibility organization must submit to the commissioner an annual fee for
8.28 the following year, as determined by the commissioner. Beginning October 1, 2028, and
8.29 annually thereafter, the commissioner must notify registered producer responsibility
8.30 organizations in writing of the amount of the fee for the following year. If there is more
8.31 than one registered producer responsibility organization, the coordinating body described
8.32 in subdivision 1, paragraph (b), must equitably apportion payment of the annual fee between
8.33 all registered producer responsibility organizations. The annual fee must be set at an amount

9.1 anticipated to in the aggregate meet but not exceed the commissioner's estimate of the costs
9.2 required to perform the commissioner's duties as described in section 115A.1445 and to
9.3 otherwise administer, implement, and enforce this act.

9.4 (b) The commissioner must reconcile the fees paid by a producer responsibility
9.5 organization under this subdivision with the actual costs incurred by the agency on an annual
9.6 basis, by means of credits or refunds to or additional payments required of a producer
9.7 responsibility organization, as applicable.

9.8 **Subd. 3. Initial producer responsibility organization registration; implementation**
9.9 **fee.** (a) Notwithstanding the other provisions of this section, the commissioner may not
9.10 allow registration of more than one producer responsibility organization under this section
9.11 before the first stewardship plan approved by the commissioner expires. If more than one
9.12 producer responsibility organization applies to register under this section before the first
9.13 stewardship plan is approved by the commissioner, the commissioner must select the producer
9.14 responsibility organization that will represent producers until the first stewardship plan
9.15 expires and must return the registration fee paid by applicants who are not selected. When
9.16 selecting a producer responsibility organization, the commissioner must consider whether
9.17 the producer responsibility organization:

9.18 (1) has a governing board consisting of producers that represent a diversity of covered
9.19 materials sold, offered for sale, or distributed in the state; and

9.20 (2) demonstrates adequate financial responsibility and financial controls to ensure proper
9.21 management of funds.

9.22 (b) By October 1, 2025, and annually until the first stewardship plan is approved, the
9.23 commissioner must provide written notice to the initial producer responsibility organization
9.24 registered under this section of the commissioner's estimate of the cost of conducting the
9.25 initial needs assessment and the commissioner's costs to administer this act during the period
9.26 prior to plan approval. The producer responsibility organization must remit payment in full
9.27 for these costs to the commissioner within 45 days of receipt of this notice. The producer
9.28 responsibility organization may charge each member producer to cover the cost of its
9.29 implementation fee according to each producer's unit-, weight-, volume-, or sales-based
9.30 market share or by another method it determines to be an equitable determination of each
9.31 producer's payment obligation.

9.32 **Subd. 4. Requirement for additional producer responsibility organizations.** The
9.33 commissioner may allow registration of more than one producer responsibility organization
9.34 if:

10.1 (1) producers of a covered materials type or a specific covered material appoint a producer
10.2 responsibility organization; or

10.3 (2) producers organize under additional producer responsibility organizations that meet
10.4 the criteria established in subdivision 3, paragraph (a).

10.5 **Sec. 5. [115A.1444] ESTABLISHMENT OF PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY**
10.6 **ADVISORY BOARD.**

10.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The Producer Responsibility Advisory Board is established
10.8 to review all programs conducted by producer responsibility organizations under this act
10.9 and to advise the commissioner and producer responsibility organizations regarding the
10.10 implementation of this act.

10.11 Subd. 2. **Membership.** (a) The membership of the advisory board consists of persons
10.12 appointed by the commissioner by January 1, 2025, as follows:

10.13 (1) two members representing manufacturers of covered materials or a statewide or
10.14 national trade association representing those manufacturers;

10.15 (2) two members representing recycling facilities that manage covered materials;

10.16 (3) one member representing a waste hauler or a statewide association representing waste
10.17 haulers;

10.18 (4) one member representing retailers of covered materials or a statewide trade association
10.19 representing those retailers;

10.20 (5) one member representing a statewide nonprofit environmental organization;

10.21 (6) one member representing a community-based nonprofit environmental justice
10.22 organization;

10.23 (7) one member representing a waste facility that receives covered materials and transfers
10.24 them to another facility for reuse, recycling, or composting;

10.25 (8) one member representing a waste facility that receives source-separated compostable
10.26 materials for composting or a statewide trade association that represents such facilities;

10.27 (9) two members representing an entity that develops or offers for sale covered materials
10.28 that are designed for reuse and maintained through a reuse system or infrastructure or a
10.29 statewide or national trade association that represents such entities;

10.30 (10) three members representing organizations of political subdivisions;

11.1 (11) two members representing other stakeholders or additional members of interests
11.2 represented under clauses (1) to (10) as determined by the commissioner; and

11.3 (12) one member representing the commissioner.

11.4 (b) In making appointments under paragraph (a), the commissioner:

11.5 (1) may not appoint members who are state legislators or registered lobbyists;

11.6 (2) may not appoint members who are employees of a producer required to be members
11.7 of a producer responsibility organization in this state under this act; and

11.8 (3) must endeavor to appoint members from all regions of the state.

11.9 Subd. 3. **Terms; removal.** A member of the advisory board appointed under subdivision
11.10 2, paragraph (a), clause (12), serves at the pleasure of the commissioner. All other members
11.11 serve for a term of four years, except that the initial term for nine of the initial appointees
11.12 must be two years so that membership terms are staggered. Members may be reappointed
11.13 but may not serve more than eight consecutive years. Removing members and filling of
11.14 vacancies is governed by section 15.059, subdivision 4. Except as otherwise provided,
11.15 chapter 15 does not apply to the board.

11.16 Subd. 4. **Compensation.** Members of the board must be compensated according to
11.17 section 15.059, subdivision 3.

11.18 Subd. 5. **Quorum.** A majority of the voting board members constitutes a quorum. If
11.19 there is a vacancy in the membership of the board, a majority of the remaining voting
11.20 members of the board constitutes a quorum.

11.21 Subd. 6. **Voting.** Action by the advisory board requires a quorum and a majority of those
11.22 present and voting. All members of the advisory board, except the member appointed under
11.23 subdivision 2, paragraph (a), clause (12), are voting members of the board.

11.24 Subd. 7. **Meetings.** The advisory board must meet at least two times per year and may
11.25 meet more frequently upon ten days' written notice at the request of the chair or a majority
11.26 of its members.

11.27 Subd. 8. **Open meetings.** Meetings of the board must comply with chapter 13D.

11.28 Subd. 9. **Chair.** At its initial meeting, and every two years thereafter, the advisory board
11.29 must elect a chair and vice-chair from among its members.

11.30 Subd. 10. **Administrative and operating support.** The commissioner must provide
11.31 administrative and operating support to the advisory board and may contract with a third-party

12.1 facilitator to assist in administering the activities of the advisory board, including establishing
12.2 a website or landing page on the agency website.

12.3 Subd. 11. **Conflict of interest policies.** The commissioner must assist the advisory board
12.4 in developing policies and procedures governing the disclosure of actual or perceived
12.5 conflicts of interest that advisory board members may have as a result of their employment
12.6 or financial holdings of themselves or of family members. Each advisory board member is
12.7 responsible for reviewing the conflict of interest policies and procedures. An advisory board
12.8 member must disclose any instance of actual or perceived conflicts of interest at each meeting
12.9 of the advisory board at which recommendations regarding stewardship plans, programs,
12.10 operations, or activities are made by the advisory board.

12.11 Sec. 6. **[115A.1445] COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBILITIES.**

12.12 The commissioner must:

12.13 (1) appoint the initial membership of the advisory board by January 1, 2025, according
12.14 to section 115A.1444;

12.15 (2) provide administrative and operating support to the advisory board, as required by
12.16 section 115A.1444, subdivision 10;

12.17 (3) complete an initial needs assessment by December 31, 2026, and update the needs
12.18 assessment every five years thereafter, according to section 115A.1450;

12.19 (4) approve stewardship plans and amendments to stewardship plans according to section
12.20 115A.1451;

12.21 (5) provide a list of covered materials determined to be recyclable or compostable to all
12.22 producer responsibility organizations by March 1, 2027, and at least every three years
12.23 thereafter, according to the requirements of section 115A.1453;

12.24 (6) post on the agency's website:

12.25 (i) the most recent registration materials submitted by producer responsibility
12.26 organizations, including all information submitted under section 115A.1443, subdivision
12.27 1;

12.28 (ii) the most recent needs assessment;

12.29 (iii) any stewardship plan or amendment submitted by a producer responsibility
12.30 organization under section 115A.1451 that is in draft form during the public comment
12.31 period;

13.1 (iv) the most recent list of recyclable or compostable covered materials developed by
 13.2 the commissioner under section 115A.1453;

13.3 (v) links to producer responsibility organization websites;

13.4 (vi) comments of the public, advisory board, and producer responsibility organizations
 13.5 on the documents listed in items (ii), (iii), (iv), and (vii), and the responses of the
 13.6 commissioner to those comments; and

13.7 (vii) links to adopted rules implementing this act;

13.8 (7) require and approve independent auditors to perform an annual financial audit of
 13.9 program operations of each producer responsibility organization; and

13.10 (8) consider and respond in writing to all written comments received from the advisory
 13.11 board.

13.12 **Sec. 7. [115A.1446] PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ADVISORY BOARD**
 13.13 **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

13.14 The Producer Responsibility Advisory Board must:

13.15 (1) convene its initial meeting by March 1, 2025;

13.16 (2) consult with the commissioner regarding the scope of the needs assessment and to
 13.17 provide written comments on needs assessments, according to section 115A.1450, subdivision
 13.18 2;

13.19 (3) advise on the development of stewardship plans and amendments to stewardship
 13.20 plans under section 115A.1451;

13.21 (4) submit comments to producer responsibility organizations and to the commissioner
 13.22 on any matter relevant to the administration of this act; and

13.23 (5) provide written comments to the commissioner during any rulemaking process
 13.24 undertaken by the commissioner under section 115A.1459.

13.25 **Sec. 8. [115A.1447] PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION**
 13.26 **RESPONSIBILITIES.**

13.27 A producer responsibility organization must:

13.28 (1) annually register with the commissioner, according to section 115A.1443;

13.29 (2) submit a stewardship plan to the commissioner by March 1, 2028, and every five
 13.30 years thereafter, according to section 115A.1451;

14.1 (3) implement stewardship plans approved by the commissioner under section 115A.1451
14.2 and to comply with the requirements of this act;

14.3 (4) forward upon receipt from the commissioner the list of covered materials that are
14.4 deemed recyclable or compostable to all service providers that participate in a stewardship
14.5 plan administered by the producer responsibility organization;

14.6 (5) collect producer fees according to section 115A.1454;

14.7 (6) submit the reports required by section 115A.1456;

14.8 (7) ensure that producers operating under a stewardship plan administered by the producer
14.9 responsibility organization comply with the requirements of the stewardship plan and with
14.10 this act;

14.11 (8) expel a producer from the producer responsibility organization if efforts to return
14.12 the producer to compliance with the plan or with the requirements of this act are unsuccessful.
14.13 The producer responsibility organization must notify the commissioner when a producer
14.14 has been expelled under this clause;

14.15 (9) consider and respond in writing to comments received from the advisory board,
14.16 including justifications for not incorporating any recommendations;

14.17 (10) provide producers with information regarding state and federal laws that prohibit
14.18 substances in covered materials, including sections 115A.965, 116.943, 325F.075, 325F.172
14.19 to 325F.179, and all laws prohibiting toxic substances in covered materials;

14.20 (11) maintain a website according to section 115A.1457;

14.21 (12) notify the commissioner within 30 days if a change is made to the contact information
14.22 for a person responsible for implementing the stewardship plan, a change to the board
14.23 members, or a change to the executive director; and

14.24 (13) assist service providers in identifying and using responsible markets.

14.25 **Sec. 9. [115A.1448] PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITIES.**

14.26 **Subdivision 1. Registration required; prohibition of sale.** (a) After January 1, 2025,
14.27 **a producer must be a member of a producer responsibility organization registered in this**
14.28 **state.**

14.29 (b) **After January 1, 2029, no producer may introduce covered materials, either separately**
14.30 **or when used to package another product, unless the producer operates under a written**

15.1 agreement with a producer responsibility organization to operate under an approved
 15.2 stewardship plan.

15.3 (c) After January 1, 2032, no producer may introduce covered materials into the state
 15.4 unless the covered materials are:

15.5 (1) reusable and included in an established reuse system that meets the reuse rate required
 15.6 under this act;

15.7 (2) included on the recyclables or compostables list established under section 115A.1453;
 15.8 or

15.9 (3) included in an alternative collection system approved as part of a stewardship plan
 15.10 under section 115A.1451.

15.11 Subd. 2. **Duties.** A producer must:

15.12 (1) implement the requirements of the stewardship plan under which the producer operates
 15.13 and to comply with the requirements of this act; and

15.14 (2) pay producer fees according to section 115A.1454.

15.15 Sec. 10. **[115A.1449] SERVICE PROVIDER RESPONSIBILITIES.**

15.16 A service provider participating in an approved stewardship plan must:

15.17 (1) provide for the collection and management of covered materials generated in the
 15.18 state pursuant to contractual agreements with a producer responsibility organization or
 15.19 arrangements with other service providers that are entered into under an approved stewardship
 15.20 plan; and

15.21 (2) if the service provider is a political subdivision, provide at least a one-year advance
 15.22 notice to the producer responsibility organization if the political subdivision plans to cease
 15.23 acting as a service provider.

15.24 Sec. 11. **[115A.1450] NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**

15.25 Subdivision 1. **Needs assessment required.** By December 31, 2026, and every five
 15.26 years thereafter, the commissioner must complete a statewide needs assessment according
 15.27 to this section.

15.28 Subd. 2. **Input from interested parties.** In conducting a needs assessment, the
 15.29 commissioner must:

16.1 (1) initiate a consultation process to obtain recommendations from the advisory board,
16.2 political subdivisions, service providers, producer responsibility organizations, and other
16.3 interested parties regarding the type and scope of information that should be collected and
16.4 analyzed in the statewide needs assessment required by this section;

16.5 (2) contract with a third party who is not a producer or a producer responsibility
16.6 organization to conduct the needs assessment; and

16.7 (3) prior to finalizing the needs assessment, make the draft needs assessment available
16.8 for comment by the advisory board, producer responsibility organizations, and the public.
16.9 The commissioner must respond in writing to the comments and recommendations of the
16.10 advisory board and producer responsibility organizations.

16.11 Subd. 3. Content of needs assessment. A needs assessment must include at least the
16.12 following:

16.13 (1) an evaluation of the performance of:

16.14 (i) existing waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting efforts for each covered
16.15 materials type, as applicable, including collection rates, recycling rates, composting rates,
16.16 and reuse rates for each covered materials type;

16.17 (ii) overall rates of recycling and composting for all covered materials; and

16.18 (iii) the extent to which postconsumer recycled content is incorporated into each covered
16.19 materials type, as applicable;

16.20 (2) an evaluation of a representative sample of management of covered materials with
16.21 mixed municipal solid waste, as source-separated recyclable materials, and as
16.22 source-separated compostable materials as received by waste management, recycling, and
16.23 composting facilities in the state, and relevant findings from any publicly available waste
16.24 stream evaluations conducted within the previous year, to evaluate the amount and portion
16.25 of covered materials being disposed of that would otherwise be recyclable or compostable;

16.26 (3) proposals for a range of potential performance targets to meet statewide requirements
16.27 as applicable to each covered materials type to be accomplished within a five-year time
16.28 frame in multiple units of measurement, including but not limited to unit-based, weight-based,
16.29 and volume-based, for each of the following:

16.30 (i) waste reduction;

16.31 (ii) reuse;

16.32 (iii) recycling;

- 17.1 (iv) composting; and
- 17.2 (v) postconsumer recycled content;
- 17.3 (4) information to be considered in determining whether a covered materials type is
17.4 reusable, recyclable, or compostable, including its potential use as a marketable feedstock;
- 17.5 (5) proposed plans and metrics for how to measure progress in achieving performance
17.6 targets and statewide requirements;
- 17.7 (6) an evaluation of options for third-party certification of activities to meet obligations
17.8 of this act;
- 17.9 (7) an inventory of the current system including:
- 17.10 (i) infrastructure, capacity, performance, funding level, and method and sources of
17.11 financing for the existing reuse, collection, transportation, processing, recycling, and
17.12 composting systems for covered materials operating in the state; and
- 17.13 (ii) availability and cost of reuse, recycling, and composting services for covered materials
17.14 at single-family residences, multifamily residences, commercial facilities, industrial facilities,
17.15 institutional facilities, and public places, including identification of disparities in the
17.16 availability of these services in environmental justice areas compared with other areas and
17.17 proposals for reducing or eliminating those disparities;
- 17.18 (8) an evaluation of investments needed to increase waste reduction, reuse, recycling,
17.19 and composting rates of covered materials according to proposals for performance targets
17.20 in clause (3), and statewide requirements including investments that would:
- 17.21 (i) maintain or improve operations of existing infrastructure and accounts for reuse,
17.22 recycling, and composting of covered materials;
- 17.23 (ii) expand the availability and accessibility of recycling collection services for recyclable
17.24 covered materials to all residents of the state at the same or comparable level of convenience
17.25 as collection services for mixed municipal solid waste; and
- 17.26 (iii) establish and expand the availability and accessibility of reuse services for reusable
17.27 covered materials;
- 17.28 (9) an assessment of the viability and robustness of markets for recyclable covered
17.29 materials and the degree to which these markets can be considered responsible markets;
- 17.30 (10) an assessment of the level and causes of contamination of source-separated recyclable
17.31 materials, source-separated compostable materials and collected reusables, and the impacts
17.32 of contamination on service providers, including the cost to manage this contamination;

18.1 (11) an assessment of toxic substances intentionally added to covered materials, their
18.2 potential environmental impacts and human health impacts, and whether this limits one or
18.3 more covered materials types from being used as a marketable feedstock;

18.4 (12) an assessment of current best practices to increase public awareness, educate, and
18.5 complete outreach activities accounting for culturally responsive materials and methods
18.6 and an evaluation of the efficacy of these efforts including assessments and evaluations of
18.7 current best practices and efforts on:

18.8 (i) using product labels as a means of informing consumers about environmentally sound
18.9 management of covered materials;

18.10 (ii) increasing public awareness of how to manage covered materials in an
18.11 environmentally sound manner and how to access reuse, recycling, and composting services;
18.12 and

18.13 (iii) encouraging behavior change to increase participation in reuse, recycling, and
18.14 composting programs;

18.15 (13) identification of the covered materials with the most significant environmental
18.16 impact; and

18.17 (14) other items identified by the commissioner that would aid the creation of the
18.18 stewardship plan, its administration, and the enforcement of this act.

18.19 Subd. 4. **Needs assessment as baseline.** When determining the extent to which any
18.20 statewide requirement or performance target under this act has been achieved, information
18.21 contained in a needs assessment must serve as the baseline for that determination, when
18.22 applicable.

18.23 Subd. 5. **Participation required.** A service provider or other person with data or
18.24 information necessary to complete a needs assessment must provide the data or information
18.25 to the commissioner upon request. A service provider or other person who does not want
18.26 to be identified with information submitted to the commissioner under this subdivision may
18.27 request to proceed under a nondisclosure agreement. A nondisclosure agreement is limited
18.28 to the items under section 115A.06, subdivision 13. Once a request is made, the requestor,
18.29 the commissioner, and all third parties participating in the completion of the needs assessment
18.30 in whatever capacity must enter into a nondisclosure agreement. Once these parties have
18.31 entered into a nondisclosure agreement, the requestor must submit the necessary data or
18.32 information to the contractor selected by the commissioner according to subdivision 2, who
18.33 must aggregate and anonymize the data or information received from all parties proceeding

19.1 under a nondisclosure agreement under this subdivision and must then submit the aggregated
19.2 anonymized information to the commissioner or to the party or parties contracted to complete
19.3 the needs assessment.

19.4 Sec. 12. [115A.1451] STEWARDSHIP PLAN.

19.5 Subdivision 1. Stewardship plan required. By March 1, 2028, and every five years
19.6 thereafter, a producer responsibility organization must submit a stewardship plan to the
19.7 commissioner that describes the proposed operation by the organization of programs to
19.8 fulfill the requirements of this act and that incorporates the findings and results of needs
19.9 assessments. Once approved, a stewardship plan remains in effect for five years, as amended,
19.10 or until a subsequent stewardship plan is approved.

19.11 Subd. 2. Advisory board review of draft plan and amendments. A producer
19.12 responsibility organization must submit a draft stewardship plan or draft amendment to the
19.13 advisory board at least 60 days prior to submitting the draft plan or draft amendment to the
19.14 commissioner to allow the advisory board to submit comments and must address advisory
19.15 board comments and recommendations prior to submission of the draft plan or draft
19.16 amendment to the commissioner.

19.17 Subd. 3. Content of stewardship plans. A proposed stewardship plan must include at
19.18 least the following:

19.19 (1) performance targets as applicable to each covered materials type to be accomplished
19.20 within a five-year period, established in subdivision 5, paragraph (a);

19.21 (2) a description of the method of collection to be used for each covered materials type,
19.22 including proposals for alternative collection programs for covered materials not included
19.23 in the list established by the commissioner under section 115A.1453;

19.24 (3) proposals for exemptions from performance targets for covered materials that cannot
19.25 be waste reduced or made reusable, recyclable, or compostable due to federal or state health
19.26 and safety requirements. The producer responsibility organization must identify the specific
19.27 requirements and the impact on the covered materials;

19.28 (4) a plan for how the producer responsibility organization will measure recycling, source
19.29 reduction, and reuse according to subdivision 6, and a description of how the organization
19.30 will measure composting and inclusion of postconsumer recycled content;

19.31 (5) third-party certifications as required by the commissioner or voluntarily undertaken;

20.1 (6) a budget and identification of funding needs for each of the five calendar years
20.2 covered by the plan, including:

20.3 (i) producer fees and a description of the process used to calculate the fees, including
20.4 an explanation of how the fees meet the requirements of section 115A.1454; and

20.5 (ii) a plan for infrastructure investments, including a description of how the process to
20.6 offer and select opportunities will be conducted in an open, competitive, and fair manner;
20.7 how it will address gaps in the system not met by service providers; and the financial and
20.8 legal instruments to be used;

20.9 (7) an explanation of how the program will be fully paid for by producers, without any
20.10 fee, charge, surcharge, or other cost to members of the public, businesses, service providers,
20.11 the state or any political subdivision, or any other person who is not a producer. For purposes
20.12 of this requirement, a deposit made in connection with a product's reuse or recycling that
20.13 can be redeemed by a consumer is not a fee, charge, surcharge, or other cost;

20.14 (8) a description of activities to be undertaken during the next five calendar years, which
20.15 must at a minimum describe how the producer responsibility organization, acting on behalf
20.16 of producers, will:

20.17 (i) minimize the environmental impacts and human health impacts of covered materials;

20.18 (ii) incorporate as program objectives the improved design of covered materials according
20.19 to section 115A.1454, subdivision 1, clause (2);

20.20 (iii) expand and increase the convenience of reuse, collection, recycling, and composting
20.21 services according to the order of the waste management hierarchy under section 115A.02;

20.22 (iv) ensure statewide coverage of collection services for covered materials on the
20.23 recyclable materials list established according to section 115A.1453, at no cost to all
20.24 single-family residences, multifamily residences, and political subdivisions arranging for
20.25 collection of recyclable materials from public places in a comparable level of convenience
20.26 as collection services for mixed municipal solid waste; and

20.27 (v) ensure that postconsumer recycled materials are delivered to responsible markets;

20.28 (9) a description of how the program uses and interacts with existing collection, reuse,
20.29 recycling, and composting efforts and service providers and how the producer responsibility
20.30 organization will reimburse service providers for the costs of:

20.31 (i) collecting covered materials generated from all single-family residences, multifamily
20.32 residences, and public places in the state; and

21.1 (ii) managing covered materials generated from all single-family residences, multifamily
21.2 residences, public places, and commercial, industrial, and institutional facilities in the state;

21.3 (10) reimbursement formulas and schedules of reimbursement rates for service providers
21.4 that elect to participate in the program and a description of how the formulas and schedules
21.5 were developed according to section 115A.1455;

21.6 (11) terms and conditions for service agreements, including:

21.7 (i) an agreement that the producer responsibility organization will treat nonpublic data
21.8 submitted by service providers electing to participate in the program as nonpublic data;

21.9 (ii) a requirement that service providers accept all covered materials on the recyclable
21.10 or compostable materials lists established by the commissioner under section 115A.1453;
21.11 and

21.12 (iii) performance standards for service providers that include a requirement that service
21.13 providers sorting commingled recyclable materials meet minimum material standards and
21.14 bale quality standards, minimum capture rates, maximum processing residual rates, and
21.15 demonstrate materials have been sent to a responsible market;

21.16 (12) a description of how the producer responsibility organization will provide technical
21.17 assistance to:

21.18 (i) service providers in order to deliver covered materials to responsible markets;

21.19 (ii) producers regarding toxic substances in covered materials and actions producers can
21.20 take to reduce intentionally added toxic substances in covered materials through proof of
21.21 testing or an analytical and scientifically demonstrated methodology; and

21.22 (iii) producers to make changes in product design that reduce the environmental impact
21.23 of covered materials or that increase the recoverability or marketability of covered materials
21.24 for reuse, recycling, or composting;

21.25 (13) a description of how the producer responsibility organization will increase public
21.26 awareness, educate, and complete outreach activities accounting for culturally responsive
21.27 materials and methods and evaluate the efficacy of these efforts including how the producer
21.28 responsibility organization will:

21.29 (i) assist producers in improving product labels as a means of informing consumers
21.30 about reusing, recycling, composting, and other environmentally sound methods of managing
21.31 covered materials;

22.1 (ii) increase public awareness of how to manage covered materials in an environmentally
22.2 sound manner and how to access reuse, recycling, and composting services; and

22.3 (iii) encourage behavior change to increase participation in reuse, recycling, and
22.4 composting programs;

22.5 (14) a summary of consultations held with the advisory board and other stakeholders to
22.6 provide input to the stewardship plan, a list of recommendations that were incorporated into
22.7 the stewardship plan as a result, and a list of rejected recommendations and the reasons for
22.8 rejection; and

22.9 (15) strategies to incorporate findings from any relevant studies required by the
22.10 legislature.

22.11 Subd. 4. **Plan and amendment review and approval procedure.** (a) The commissioner
22.12 must review and approve, deny, or request additional information for a draft stewardship
22.13 plan or a draft plan amendment no later than 120 days after the date the commissioner
22.14 receives it from a producer responsibility organization. The commissioner must post the
22.15 draft plan or draft amendment on the agency's website and allow public comment for no
22.16 less than 45 days before approving, denying, or requesting additional information on the
22.17 draft plan or draft amendment.

22.18 (b) If the commissioner denies, or requests additional information for, a draft plan or
22.19 draft amendment, the commissioner must provide the producer responsibility organization
22.20 with the reasons, in writing, that the plan or plan amendment does not meet the plan
22.21 requirements of subdivision 3. The producer responsibility organization shall have 60 days
22.22 from the date that the rejection or request for additional information is received to submit
22.23 to the commissioner any additional information necessary for the approval of the draft plan
22.24 or draft amendment. The commissioner shall review and approve or disapprove the revised
22.25 draft plan or draft amendment no later than 60 days after the date the commissioner receives
22.26 it.

22.27 (c) A producer responsibility organization may resubmit a draft plan or draft amendment
22.28 to the commissioner on not more than two occasions. If after the second resubmission, the
22.29 commissioner determines that the draft plan or draft amendment does not meet the plan
22.30 requirements of this act, the commissioner must modify the draft plan or draft amendment
22.31 as necessary for it to meet the requirements of this act and approve it.

22.32 (d) Upon recommendation by the advisory board, or upon the commissioner's own
22.33 initiative, the commissioner may require an amendment to a stewardship plan if the

23.1 commissioner determines that an amendment is necessary to ensure that the producer
 23.2 responsibility organization maintains compliance with the requirements of this act.

23.3 Subd. 5. **Performance targets.** (a) The producer responsibility organization must propose
 23.4 performance targets based on the needs assessment that meet the statewide requirements in
 23.5 subdivision 7 that must be included in a stewardship plan approved under this section.
 23.6 Performance targets must include targets for waste reduction, reuse, recycling, composting,
 23.7 and postconsumer recycled content by covered materials type that are to be achieved by the
 23.8 end of the stewardship plan's term. The producer responsibility organization must select
 23.9 the unit that is most appropriate to measure each performance target as informed by the
 23.10 needs assessment.

23.11 (b) The commissioner may require that a producer responsibility organization obtain
 23.12 third-party certification of any activity or achievement of any standard required by this act.
 23.13 The commissioner must provide a producer responsibility organization with notice of at
 23.14 least one year prior to requiring use of third-party certification under this paragraph.

23.15 (c) Proposed performance targets must demonstrate continuous improvement in reducing
 23.16 environmental impacts and human health impacts of covered material over time.

23.17 Subd. 6. **Measurement criteria for performance targets.** (a) For purposes of
 23.18 determining whether recycling performance targets are being met, except as modified by
 23.19 the commissioner, a stewardship plan must provide for the measurement of the amount of
 23.20 recycled material to be at the point at which material leaves a recycling facility and must
 23.21 account for:

23.22 (1) levels of estimated contamination documented by the facility;

23.23 (2) any exclusions for fuel or energy capture; and

23.24 (3) compliance with sections 115A.965, 116.943, 325F.075, and 325F.172 to 325F.179,
 23.25 and all other laws pertaining to toxic substances in covered materials.

23.26 (b) For purposes of determining whether source reduction performance targets are being
 23.27 met, a stewardship plan must provide for the measurement of the amount of source reduction
 23.28 of covered materials in a manner that can determine the extent to which the amount of
 23.29 material used for a covered material is eliminated beyond what is necessary to efficiently
 23.30 deliver a product without damage or spoilage, or other means of covered material redesign
 23.31 to reduce overall use and environmental impacts.

23.32 (c) For purposes of determining whether reuse targets are being met, a stewardship plan
 23.33 must provide for measuring to be the amount of reusable covered materials to be at the point

24.1 at which reusable covered materials meet the following criteria as demonstrated by the
24.2 producer and approved by the commissioner:

24.3 (1) whether the average minimum number of cycles of reuses within a recognized reuse
24.4 system has been met based on the number of times an item must be reused for it to have
24.5 lower environmental impacts; and

24.6 (2) whether the demonstrated or research-based anticipated return rate of the covered
24.7 material to the reuse system has been met.

24.8 (d) For other targets, the producer responsibility organization must propose a calculation
24.9 point for review and approval as part of the stewardship plan based on findings from the
24.10 needs assessment.

24.11 Subd. 7. **Statewide requirements.** (a) The producer responsibility organization must
24.12 ensure the following requirements are met by the end of the year indicated:

24.13 (1) by 2033:

24.14 (i) 65 percent of covered materials by weight sold into the state must be recycled or
24.15 composted;

24.16 (ii) ten percent of the number of units of packaging sold into the state must be returned
24.17 to an established reuse system;

24.18 (iii) the weight of covered materials introduced in the state must be source reduced by
24.19 15 percent, compared to levels identified in the initial needs estimate; and

24.20 (iv) all covered materials sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in this state must
24.21 contain at least ten percent postconsumer recycled content, with all covered materials
24.22 containing an overall average of at least 30 percent; and

24.23 (2) by 2038:

24.24 (i) 75 percent of covered materials by weight sold into the state must be recycled or
24.25 composted;

24.26 (ii) 20 percent of the number of units of packaging sold into the state must be returned
24.27 to an established reuse system;

24.28 (iii) the weight of covered materials introduced in the state must be source reduced by
24.29 25 percent, compared to levels identified in the initial needs estimate; and

25.1 (iv) all covered materials sold, offered for sale, or distributed for sale in this state must
 25.2 contain at least 30 percent postconsumer recycled content, with all covered products
 25.3 containing an overall average of at least 50 percent.

25.4 (b) The commissioner may adjust any requirement established in paragraph (a) by no
 25.5 more than five percent but must submit the proposed adjustment to the advisory board and
 25.6 consider the board's recommendations before making the adjustment.

25.7 (c) After 2038, the commissioner may establish additional statewide requirements for
 25.8 the amount of covered materials that must be recycled or composted, the number of units
 25.9 of packaging sold into the state that must be returned to an established reuse system, the
 25.10 weight of covered materials sold into the state that must be source reduced, and the percent
 25.11 of postconsumer recycled content that must be used in covered materials introduced into
 25.12 this state. These statewide requirements must not be less than those listed in this subdivision.

25.13 **Sec. 13. [115A.1453] RECYCLABLE OR COMPOSTABLE COVERED**
 25.14 **MATERIALS LISTS.**

25.15 Subdivision 1. **List required.** By March 1, 2027, and at least every three years thereafter,
 25.16 the commissioner must complete a list of covered materials determined to be recyclable or
 25.17 compostable statewide through systems where covered materials are commingled into a
 25.18 recyclables stream and a separate compostables stream.

25.19 Subd. 2. **Input from interested parties.** The commissioner must consult with the
 25.20 advisory board, producer responsibility organizations, service providers, political
 25.21 subdivisions, and other interested parties to develop the recyclable or compostable covered
 25.22 materials lists.

25.23 Subd. 3. **Requirements.** To be included on the recyclable or compostable covered
 25.24 materials lists:

25.25 (1) recycling or composting of the covered material type must be available to no less
 25.26 than 60 percent of the population in the metropolitan area and no less than 60 percent of
 25.27 the population outside the metropolitan area;

25.28 (2) if collected for recycling, the covered material type and form must be one that is
 25.29 regularly sorted and aggregated into defined streams for recycling processes, or the packaging
 25.30 format must fall into a relevant Institution of Scrap Recycling Industries specification;

25.31 (3) at least 75 percent of that covered material type by unit must be in a similar format
 25.32 as other covered materials in that type and must be either able to be managed by recycling
 25.33 or managed by composting;

26.1 (4) the covered material must not include any components or features, inks, adhesives,
26.2 or labels that are detrimental to the recycling or composting process;

26.3 (5) the covered material must comply with sections 115A.965, 116.943, 325F.075, and
26.4 325F.172 to 325F.179, and all other laws pertaining to toxic substances in covered materials;
26.5 and

26.6 (6) the covered material must satisfy any other requirements determined by the
26.7 commissioner.

26.8 Subd. 4. **Amendment.** The commissioner may amend a list completed under this section
26.9 at any time and must provide amended lists to producer responsibility organizations as soon
26.10 as possible after adopting an amendment. Producer responsibility organizations must provide
26.11 amended lists to service providers as soon as possible after receiving the amendment and
26.12 work to incorporate changes in relevant service provider agreements and operations within
26.13 a year.

26.14 Sec. 14. **[115A.1454] PRODUCER FEES.**

26.15 Subdivision 1. **Annual fee.** A producer responsibility organization must annually collect
26.16 a fee from each producer that must:

26.17 (1) be based on the total amount of covered materials each producer introduces in the
26.18 prior year calculated on a per-unit basis, such as per ton, per item, or another unit of
26.19 measurement;

26.20 (2) incentivize using materials and design attributes that reduce the environmental impacts
26.21 and human health impacts, as determined by the commissioner, of covered materials by the
26.22 following methods:

26.23 (i) eliminating intentionally added toxic substances in covered materials;

26.24 (ii) reducing the amount of packaging per individual covered material that is necessary
26.25 to efficiently deliver a product without damage or spoilage without reducing its ability to
26.26 be recycled or reducing the amount of paper used to manufacture individual paper products;

26.27 (iii) increasing covered materials managed in a reuse system;

26.28 (iv) increasing the proportion of postconsumer material in covered materials;

26.29 (v) enhancing recyclability or compostability of a covered material; and

26.30 (vi) increasing the amount of inputs derived from renewable and sustainable sources;

27.1 (3) discourage using materials and design attributes in a producer's covered materials
 27.2 whose environmental impacts and human health impacts, as determined by the commissioner,
 27.3 can be reduced by the methods listed under clause (2);

27.4 (4) prioritize reuse by charging covered materials that are managed through a reuse
 27.5 system only once, upon initial entry into the marketplace, and by applying the lowest fee
 27.6 to these covered materials; and

27.7 (5) generate revenue sufficient to pay in full:

27.8 (i) the annual registration fee required under section 115A.1443;

27.9 (ii) financial obligations to complete activities described in an approved stewardship
 27.10 plan and to reimburse service providers under agreements in section 115A.1455;

27.11 (iii) the operating costs of the producer responsibility organization; and

27.12 (iv) for the establishment and maintenance of a financial reserve that is sufficient to
 27.13 operate the program in a fiscally prudent and responsible manner.

27.14 Subd. 2. **Overcollections.** Revenue collected under this section that exceeds the amount
 27.15 needed to pay the costs described in subdivision 1, clause (5), must be used to improve or
 27.16 enhance program outcomes or to reduce producer fees according to provisions of an approved
 27.17 stewardship plan.

27.18 Subd. 3. **Prohibited conduct.** Fees collected under this section may not be used for
 27.19 lobbying, as defined in section 3.084, subdivision 1.

27.20 Sec. 15. **[115A.1455] SERVICE PROVIDER AGREEMENTS; REIMBURSEMENT**
 27.21 **RATES.**

27.22 Subdivision 1. **Service provider agreements and reimbursement required.** The terms
 27.23 and conditions of the provision of reuse, collection, recycling, or composting services under
 27.24 an approved stewardship plan must be established under a service agreement between a
 27.25 producer responsibility organization and a service provider. In addition to the terms and
 27.26 conditions established in an approved stewardship plan, each agreement must:

27.27 (1) establish strong labor standards and work safety practices, including but not limited
 27.28 to safety programs, health benefits, and living wages;

27.29 (2) require the service provider to meet established performance standards;

27.30 (3) prohibit the service provider from charging a fee to any person for the services
 27.31 provided under the service agreement; and

28.1 (4) establish clear and reasonable timelines for reimbursement.

28.2 Subd. 2. **Collection of recyclables.** If a household does not have access to collection
 28.3 services at a comparable level of convenience as collection services for mixed municipal
 28.4 solid waste for covered materials on the recyclable covered materials list established under
 28.5 section 115A.1453, the producer responsibility organization must ensure that collection
 28.6 service is available to the household through a service provider.

28.7 Subd. 3. **Bidding processes.** (a) For procurement of services for management of covered
 28.8 materials and for infrastructure investments included under an approved stewardship plan,
 28.9 a producer responsibility organization must use the competitive bidding processes established
 28.10 in section 16C.28, subdivision 1, and publicly post bid opportunities when entering into
 28.11 agreements with service providers that are not political subdivisions, except that preference
 28.12 must be given to existing facilities, providers of services, and accounts in the state for reuse,
 28.13 collection, recycling, and composting of covered materials.

28.14 (b) No producer or producer responsibility organization may own or partially own
 28.15 infrastructure except that if, after a bidding process described in paragraph (a), no service
 28.16 provider bids on the contract, the producer responsibility organization may make
 28.17 infrastructure investments identified under an approved stewardship plan to implement the
 28.18 requirements in this act.

28.19 Subd. 4. **Reimbursement rates.** (a) Each service agreement must include reimbursement
 28.20 rates for services that are based on formulas that:

28.21 (1) incorporate relevant cost information identified by the needs assessment;

28.22 (2) reflect conditions that affect reuse, collection, recycling, and composting costs in
 28.23 the region or jurisdiction in which the services are provided, including but not limited to:

28.24 (i) the number and size of households;

28.25 (ii) population density;

28.26 (iii) collections methods employed;

28.27 (iv) distance to consolidation or transfer facilities, reuse, recycling, or composting
 28.28 facilities, or to responsible markets; and

28.29 (v) other factors that may contribute to regional or jurisdictional cost differences;

28.30 (3) reflect administrative costs of service providers, including education, public awareness
 28.31 campaigns, and outreach program costs as applicable;

28.32 (4) reflect planned capital improvements to facilities and equipment costs;

29.1 (5) reflect the cost of managing contamination present in source-separated recyclable
 29.2 materials and source-separated compostable materials, including disposal of contamination
 29.3 and residuals;

29.4 (6) reflect the proportion of covered compostable materials within all source-separated
 29.5 compostable materials collected or managed through composting; and

29.6 (7) reflect the cost of managing contamination and cleaning or sanitation needed for
 29.7 reuse systems.

29.8 (b) Each service agreement with a service provider who is also a political subdivision
 29.9 must include reimbursement rates that use a rate established in a contract between a political
 29.10 subdivision and one or more service providers in place of paragraph (a), clauses (1) and
 29.11 (2), as established in subdivision 4.

29.12 Subd. 5. **Local government authority.** Nothing in this section shall be construed to
 29.13 require a political subdivision to agree to operate under a stewardship plan, nor does it
 29.14 restrict the authority of a political subdivision to provide waste management services to
 29.15 residents or to contract with any entity to provide waste management services.

29.16 Subd. 6. **Dispute resolution.** There must be a dispute resolution process for disputes
 29.17 related to reimbursements and the service agreements utilizing third-party mediators.

29.18 **Sec. 16. [115A.1456] REPORTING.**

29.19 Subdivision 1. **Producer responsibility organization annual report.** (a) By July 1,
 29.20 2031, and each May 1 thereafter, a producer responsibility organization must submit a
 29.21 written report to the commissioner that contains, at a minimum, the following information
 29.22 for the previous calendar year:

29.23 (1) the amount of covered materials introduced by each covered materials type, reported
 29.24 in the same units used to establish fees under section 115A.1454, subdivision 1, clause (1);

29.25 (2) progress toward the performance targets reported in the same units used to establish
 29.26 producer fees under section 115A.1454, subdivision 1, clause (1), and reported statewide
 29.27 and for each county including:

29.28 (i) the amount of covered materials successfully waste reduced, reused, recycled, and
 29.29 composted by covered materials type and the strategies or collection method used; and

29.30 (ii) information about third-party certifications obtained;

29.31 (3) the total cost to implement the program and a detailed description of program
 29.32 expenditures including:

- 30.1 (i) the total amount of producer fees collected in the current calendar year; and
- 30.2 (ii) a description of infrastructure investments made during the previous year;
- 30.3 (4) a copy of a financial audit of program operations conducted by an independent auditor
- 30.4 approved by the commissioner;
- 30.5 (5) a description of program performance problems that emerged in specific locations
- 30.6 and efforts taken or proposed by the producer responsibility organization to address them;
- 30.7 (6) a discussion of technical assistance provided to producers regarding toxic substances
- 30.8 in covered materials and actions taken by producers to reduce intentionally added toxic
- 30.9 substances in covered materials beyond compliance with prohibitions already established
- 30.10 in law through proof of testing or an analytical and scientifically demonstrated methodology;
- 30.11 (7) a description of public awareness, education, and outreach activities undertaken
- 30.12 including any evaluations conducted of their efficacy, plans for next calendar year's activities,
- 30.13 and an evaluation of the process established by the producer responsibility organization to
- 30.14 answer questions from consumers regarding collection, recycling, composting, and reuse
- 30.15 activities;
- 30.16 (8) a summary of consultations held with the advisory board and how any feedback was
- 30.17 incorporated into the report as a result of the consultations, together with a list of rejected
- 30.18 recommendations and the reasons for rejection;
- 30.19 (9) a list of any producers found to be out of compliance with this act, and actions taken
- 30.20 by the producer responsibility organization to return the producer to compliance, and
- 30.21 notification of any producers that are no longer participating in the producer responsibility
- 30.22 organization or have been expelled due to their lack of compliance;
- 30.23 (10) any proposed amendments to the stewardship plan to improve program performance
- 30.24 or reduce costs, including changes to producer fees, infrastructure investments, or
- 30.25 reimbursement formula and rates; and
- 30.26 (11) any information requested by the commissioner to assist with determining
- 30.27 compliance with this act.
- 30.28 (b) Every fourth year after a stewardship plan is approved by the commissioner, a
- 30.29 performance audit of the program must be completed. The performance audit must conform
- 30.30 to audit standards established by the United States Government Accountability Office; the
- 30.31 National Association of State Auditors, Comptrollers, and Treasurers; or another nationally
- 30.32 recognized organization approved by the commissioner.

31.1 Subd. 2. Report following unmet target. A producer responsibility organization that
 31.2 fails to meet a performance target approved in a stewardship plan must, within 90 days of
 31.3 filing an annual report under this section, file with the commissioner an explanation of the
 31.4 factors contributing to the failure and propose an amendment to the stewardship plan
 31.5 specifying changes in operations that the producer responsibility organization will make
 31.6 that are designed to achieve the following year's targets. An amendment filed under this
 31.7 subdivision must be reviewed by the advisory board and reviewed and approved by the
 31.8 commissioner in the manner specified in section 115A.1451, subdivisions 2 and 4.

31.9 Subd. 3. Commissioner's report. By October 15, 2034, and every five years thereafter,
 31.10 the commissioner must submit a report to the governor and to the chairs and ranking minority
 31.11 members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over solid waste. The report must
 31.12 contain a summary of the operations of the Packaging Waste and Cost Reduction Act during
 31.13 the previous five years, a summary of the needs assessment, a link to reports filed under
 31.14 subdivisions 1 and 2, recommendations for policy, statutory, or regulatory changes to the
 31.15 program, a list of efforts undertaken by the commissioner to enforce and secure compliance
 31.16 with this act, and any other information the commissioner deems to be relevant.

31.17 Subd. 4. Duty to cooperate. Service providers must provide producer responsibility
 31.18 organizations with data necessary to complete the reports required by this section upon
 31.19 request.

31.20 **Sec. 17. [115A.1457] PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY ORGANIZATION**
 31.21 **WEBSITES.**

31.22 A producer responsibility organization must maintain a website that uses best practices
 31.23 for accessibility that contains at least:

31.24 (1) information regarding a process that members of the public can use to contact the
 31.25 producer responsibility organization with questions;

31.26 (2) a directory of all service providers operating under the stewardship plan administered
 31.27 by the producer responsibility organization, grouped by location or political subdivision,
 31.28 and information about how to request service;

31.29 (3) registration materials submitted to the commissioner under section 115A.1443;

31.30 (4) the draft and approved stewardship plan and any draft and approved amendments;

31.31 (5) information on how to manage materials including the list of recyclable and
 31.32 compostable materials developed by the commissioner under section 115A.1453 and any
 31.33 alternative collection programs;

- 32.1 (6) the most recent needs assessment and all past needs assessments;
- 32.2 (7) annual reports filed by the producer responsibility organization;
- 32.3 (8) a link to administrative rules implementing this act;
- 32.4 (9) comments of the advisory board on the documents listed in clauses (4) and (7), and
- 32.5 the responses of the producer responsibility organization to those comments;
- 32.6 (10) the names of producers and brands that are not in compliance with section
- 32.7 115A.1448;
- 32.8 (11) a list, that is updated at least monthly, of all member producers that will operate
- 32.9 under the stewardship plan administered by the producer responsibility organization and,
- 32.10 for each producer, a list of all brands of the producer's covered materials introduced in the
- 32.11 state; and
- 32.12 (12) education materials on waste reduction, reuse, recycling, and composting for
- 32.13 producers and the general public.

32.14 Sec. 18. **[115A.1458] ANTICOMPETITIVE CONDUCT.**

32.15 A producer responsibility organization that arranges collection, recycling, composting,

32.16 or reuse services under this act may engage in anticompetitive conduct to the extent necessary

32.17 to plan and implement collection, recycling, composting, or reuse systems to meet the

32.18 obligations under this act, and is immune from liability under state laws relating to antitrust,

32.19 restraint of trade, and unfair trade practices.

32.20 Sec. 19. **[115A.1459] RULEMAKING.**

32.21 The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this act. The 18-month time limit under

32.22 section 14.125 does not apply to the commissioner's rulemaking authority under this section.

32.23 Sec. 20. **[115A.1460] PROVIDING INFORMATION.**

32.24 Upon request of the commissioner for purposes of determining compliance with this

32.25 act, or for purposes of implementing this act, a person must furnish to the commissioner

32.26 any information that the person has or may reasonably obtain.

32.27 Sec. 21. **[115A.1461] DEPOSIT RETURN SYSTEM.**

32.28 It is the intent of the legislature that if a bottle deposit return system is enacted in the

32.29 future, it will be harmonized with this act in a manner that ensures that:

- 33.1 (1) materials covered in that system are exempt from this act or related financial
33.2 obligations are reduced;
- 33.3 (2) colocation of drop-off facilities and alternative collection sites is maximized;
- 33.4 (3) education and outreach is integrated between the two programs; and
- 33.5 (4) waste reduction and reuse strategies are prioritized between the two programs.

33.6 Sec. 22. **[115A.1462] ENFORCEMENT.**

33.7 (a) The commissioner must enforce this act as provided under this section and sections
33.8 115.071 and 116.072. The commissioner may revoke a registration of a producer
33.9 responsibility organization or producer found to have violated this act.

33.10 (b) Notwithstanding the penalty limits contained in section 115.071, subdivision 3, and
33.11 except as otherwise provided in paragraph (c), a person that violates or fails to perform a
33.12 duty imposed by this act or any rule adopted thereunder is liable for a civil penalty not to
33.13 exceed \$25,000 per day of violation.

33.14 (c) Notwithstanding the penalty limits contained in section 115.071, subdivision 3, a
33.15 producer responsibility organization or producer that violates a provision of or fails to
33.16 perform a duty imposed by this act, a rule adopted thereunder, or requirements of a
33.17 stewardship plan approved by the commissioner, is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed
33.18 \$25,000 per day of violation. For a second violation occurring within five years after the
33.19 approval of a stewardship plan, a producer responsibility organization or producer is liable
33.20 for a civil penalty not to exceed \$50,000 per day of violation. For a third or subsequent
33.21 violation occurring within five years after the approval of a stewardship plan, a producer
33.22 responsibility organization or producer is liable for a civil penalty not to exceed \$100,000
33.23 per day of violation.

33.24 Sec. 23. **WORKPLACE CONDITIONS AND EQUITY STUDY.**

33.25 (a) By January 1, 2032, the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency must contract
33.26 with a third party that is not a producer or a producer responsibility organization to conduct
33.27 a study of the recycling, composting, and reuse facilities operating in the state. The study
33.28 must analyze, at a minimum information about:

33.29 (1) working conditions, wage and benefit levels, and employment levels of minorities
33.30 and women at those facilities;

34.1 (2) barriers to ownership of recycling, composting, and reuse operations faced by women
34.2 and minorities;

34.3 (3) the degree to which residents of multifamily buildings have less convenient access
34.4 to recycling, composting, and reuse opportunities than those living in single-family homes;

34.5 (4) the degree to which environmental justice areas have access to fewer recycling,
34.6 composting, and reuse opportunities compared to other parts of the state;

34.7 (5) the degree to which programs to increase access, convenience, and education are
34.8 successful in raising reuse, recycling, and composting rates in areas where participation in
34.9 these activities is low;

34.10 (6) strategies to increase participation in reuse, recycling, and composting; and

34.11 (7) the degree to which residents and workers in environmental justice areas are impacted
34.12 by emissions, toxic substances, and other pollutants from solid waste facilities in comparison
34.13 to other areas of the state and provide recommendations to mitigate those impacts.

34.14 (b) The initial producer responsibility organization registered by the commissioner under
34.15 Minnesota Statutes, sections 115A.144 to 115A.1462, must cover the cost of conducting
34.16 the study through its annual registration fee and recommended actions identified in the study
34.17 must be considered as part of future stewardship plans as required under Minnesota Statutes,
34.18 section 115A.1451, including adjustments to service provider agreements and reimbursements
34.19 as established under Minnesota Statutes, section 115A.1455.

34.20 **Sec. 24. COVERED MATERIALS POLLUTION AND CLEANUP STUDY.**

34.21 (a) By January 1, 2032, the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency, in consultation
34.22 with the commissioners of health and natural resources, must contract with a third party
34.23 that is not a producer or a producer responsibility organization to conduct a study to identify
34.24 the contribution of covered products to litter and water pollution in Minnesota. The report
34.25 must at a minimum:

34.26 (1) analyze historical and current environmental and human health impacts of littered
34.27 covered materials and their associated toxic substances in the environment;

34.28 (2) estimate the cost of cleanup and prevention; and

34.29 (3) provide recommendations for how to reduce and mitigate the impacts of litter in the
34.30 state.

34.31 (b) The contracted third party must consult with units of local government, the
34.32 commissioners of health and natural resources, and environmental justice organizations.

35.1 (c) The initial producer responsibility organization registered by the commissioner under
35.2 Minnesota Statutes, sections 115A.144 to 115A.1462, must cover the cost of conducting
35.3 the study through its annual registration fee and recommended actions identified in the study
35.4 must be considered as part of future stewardship plans, as required under Minnesota Statutes,
35.5 section 115A.1451.