

## **Legislation MCPR is Watching in the 2019 Legislative Session**

**As of March 8, 2019**

( For current information on each bill click here [www.house.leg.state.mn.us](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us)

& enter the HF number in the “Get bill info” dialogue box)

HF 1244      Relating to natural resources; accelerating public drainage system acquisition and compensation of ditch buffer strips; providing runoff and sediment option when charging for public drainage ditch repairs; establishing a structure for apportioning repair costs.

HF 1569      Working Lands Pilot Program sets up a pilot program for drinking water protection. The goal is to develop a market-driven strategy using perennial and cover crops to enhance water quality, soil health, carbon storage, habitat, and the rural economy. Requires BWSR to develop and implement a working lands pilot program in selected areas. Requires criteria to be used to select areas and landowners to participate in the program. Requires coordination with local governments, local watershed planning efforts, the University of Minnesota, and others. Requires outreach, flexible contract terms, and efforts to use federal funds. Requires the program to be developed with stakeholders and the commissioners of health, natural resources, agriculture, and the Pollution Control Agency and the University of Minnesota. Requires BWSR to submit to the legislature and Clean Water Council annual progress reports and a final report by June 30, 2024. Appropriates \$8,500,000 from the general fund to BWSR to establish the program

HF 221      Establishing Minnesota agriculture special license plates for \$20, the proceeds going to appropriating money; funds are for distribution to (1) the Minnesota FFA Foundation to support the mission of the foundation, and (2) the University of Minnesota Extension Service to support Minnesota 4-H programming and activities. The commissioner must annually consult with the Minnesota FFA Foundation and the University of Minnesota Extension Service for recommendations regarding how to allocate funds.

HF 811      This bill would create a state program administered by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to encourage farm-to-school sales of certain foods. The program would reimburse participating public and private schools, school districts, and child care centers for a portion of their costs to acquire Minnesota grown unprocessed or minimally-processed foods, as defined. Requires MDA to reimburse participating schools, school districts, and child care centers within the limits of available funding for the cost of procuring Minnesota grown unprocessed and minimally processed food. Identifies costs that are not eligible for reimbursement. Requires MDA to solicit interest from eligible applicants (i.e., public and private schools, school districts, and child care providers), who must declare their intent to participate in

the program. Requires the Minnesota Department of Education to provide MDA available data on the number of eligible meals (i.e., school lunch, school breakfast, and other federal child nutrition program meals) served by each applicant. MDA would calculate the rate of reimbursement on a per-meal basis. If the calculated rate of reimbursement is less than four cents/meal, MDA would eliminate eligible applicants until the rate for remaining applicants is at least four cents/meal. Appropriates \$4,000,000 from the general fund for purposes of this new program. Specifies that of this amount (1) \$300,000 is for a new farm-to-school program coordinator at MDA and (2) four percent of the total appropriation (or \$160,000) is for program administration and to provide specified outreach and assistance to farmers and eligible schools, school districts, and day care centers.

HF 47 This bill would extend by ten years the Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) and the fertilizer inspection fee surcharge of 40 cents/ton that funds the fertilizer research, education, and technology transfer grants awarded by AFREC each year. Without this extension, the surcharge would expire in 2019 and AFREC would expire in 2020.

HF 212 Eliminates the State of MN preemption of ordinances by local governments that prohibit or regulate any matter relating to the registration, labeling, distribution, sale, handling, use, application, or disposal of pesticides.

HF 721 This bill would prohibit the use of a neonicotinoid containing product in a wildlife management area (WMA). Summary Section Description Insecticides in wildlife management areas. Prohibits a person from using a product that contains an insecticide from the neonicotinoid class of insecticides in a WMA.

HF 778 Expands the definition of farm machinery that is exempt from sales tax to include grain bins. Effective for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2019

HF 900 For vehicles with special overweight permits for hauling certain agricultural products would include "qualifying agricultural products" which means raw or unprocessed agricultural products, livestock and poultry feed, seed, fertilizer, potash, and agricultural lime.

HF 1239 This bill amends the state's Safe Drinking Water Act to direct the commissioner of health to test surface water used by community water systems in the state as a drinking water source. It also directs the commissioner to implement source water protection strategies and to establish health risk limits for certain substances. Further, the bill makes blank appropriations to the commissioner for these duties. Targets neonics, etc.

HF 1293 Requiring additional label statement on corn and soybean seed coated or treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide which must be framed in a box and including a bee icon developed by the commissioner stating "Planting seed treated with neonicotinoid pesticide may negatively impact pollinator health. Please use care when handling and planting this seed" for any corn or soybean seed treated with a neonicotinoid pesticide.

HF 1292 This bill would double the monetary penalty for a person who applies a pesticide in a manner that results in damage to adjacent state outdoor recreation land. The state Outdoor Recreation System includes state parks; state recreation areas; state trails; state scientific and natural areas; state wilderness areas; state forests; state wildlife management areas; state aquatic management areas; state water-access sites; state wild, scenic, and recreational rivers; state historic sites; and MnDOT rest areas. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) is responsible for enforcing state pesticide laws. Under current law, MDA must consider the gravity of the violation, the violator's culpability, and other factors when determining the size of a fine or administrative penalty. MDA may assess a civil penalty of up to \$7,500 per day for pesticide violations.

HF 721 This bill would prohibit the use of a neonicotinoid containing product in a wildlife management area (WMA).

HF 778 Expands the definition of farm machinery that is exempt from sales tax to include grain bins. Effective for sales and purchases made after June 30, 2019.

HF 1928 This bill appropriates \$262,709,000 from the clean water fund for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for various projects and programs based upon the recommendations of the Clean Water Council. The Clean Water Council is charged with making recommendations on the use of money in the clean water fund. The clean water fund is one of the four funds established by the "Legacy Amendment" passed by the voters in 2008 that raised the state's sales tax by three-eighths of one percent and dedicated the revenue for various purposes. The clean water fund receives 33 percent of the revenue and must be spent "only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation." The constitutional amendment also requires that at least five percent of the fund be spent to protect drinking water sources.

HF 2209 – Environment and Natural Resources - \$2,000,000 the first year is for a generic environmental impact statement to study and address nitrate pollution of groundwater in the karst region of southeastern Minnesota. This is a onetime appropriation.