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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 3458

02/12/2024 Authored by Feist, Finke, Frazier, Vang, Pursell and others
The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; prohibiting certain nonferrous mining activities in
1.3 Rainy River headwaters watershed; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.4 Statutes, chapter 93.

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

1.6 Section 1. 93.435] NONFERROUS MINING IN RAINY RIVER HEADWATERS
1.7 WATERSHED; PROHIBITIONS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definition. For the purposes of this section, "Rainy River headwaters
1.9 watershed" means that area of land and waters included in the Rainy River headwaters
1.10 watershed of the Lake of the Woods basin identified in Minnesota Rules, part 7050.0470,
1.11 subpart 2, item A, subitem (1), as hydrologic unit code 09030001 and designated on the
1.12 map of Minnesota's major watersheds under Minnesota Rules, part 7050.0469, as Rainy
1.13 Headwaters.

1.14 Subd. 2. Prohibitions. Within the Rainy River headwaters watershed, a person may not:

1.15 (1) dispose of or store waste tailings from nonferrous metallic mineral mining
1.16 aboveground;

1.17 (2) store reactive waste rock from nonferrous metallic mineral mining aboveground;

1.18 (3) use a heap leaching mining process when mining nonferrous metallic minerals; or

1.19 (4) conduct nonferrous metallic mineral smelting.

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