

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FIRST SESSION**

S.F. No. 3994

(SENATE AUTHORS: WEBER)

DATE
03/05/2020

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money for report on water-use permitting
1.3 process.

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

1.5 Section 1. WATER-USE PERMITTING PROCESS REPORT; APPROPRIATION.

1.6 \$..... in fiscal year 2021 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of
1.7 natural resources to review the water-use permitting process. The commissioner must submit
1.8 a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and
1.9 senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources
1.10 policy and finance. This is a onetime appropriation. The report must be submitted by January
1.11 15, 2021, and must include:

1.12 (1) an analysis of the water-use permitting process, identifying methods to improve
1.13 efficiency and outcomes for applicants while ensuring the sustainability of water resources;

1.14 (2) a review of water-use permit applications for irrigation that were not issued within
1.15 the permitting efficiency goals identified under Minnesota Statutes, section 84.027,
1.16 subdivision 14a, reasons the goals were not met, and solutions to address those reasons;

1.17 (3) a review of the water-use permitting process and its interaction with the environmental
1.18 review process; and

1.19 (4) recommendations to improve the water-use permitting process, including any
1.20 necessary changes to statutes or rules.