

S.F. 958 – Agriculture and Rural Development Policy (4th Engrossment)

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Date: June 24, 2021

Section 1 [Wolf destruction of livestock compensation; report] requires a report by the commissioner of agriculture for the compensation program for livestock that is destroyed by a wolf or is so crippled by a wolf that it must be destroyed.

Section 2 [Publicity Representatives] adds MDA to a list of state agencies that may hire and compensate a publicist. The publicity representative for MDA must not be an elected official or candidate for public office.

Section 3 [Good food access program; WIC] eliminates the requirement to apply to receive WIC payments for the good food access programs.

Section 4 [Eligibility] Modifies eligibility criteria for MDA's Sustainable Agriculture Demonstration Grant Program so that eligible projects would be those that satisfy one or more of the existing criteria in this section of statute.

Section 5 [Pesticide applicator; sanitizers and disinfectants] eliminates the requirement to have a commercial pesticide applicator's license to apply general use sanitizers and disinfectants for hire in response to COVID-19.

Section 6 [Cottage food pet treats] allows a person who is registered with the commissioner of agriculture to prepare and sell home-processed pet treats for dogs and cats.

Section 7 to 10 [Cottage Foods] modify the cottage food law to:

1. Allow a cottage food producer to list their registration number in place of a home address;
2. Provides a pH level for water activity;
3. Increases the gross receipts limitation to \$78,000/year from \$18,000;
4. Provides for an inflationary factor to the exemption to pay the license fee for up to \$5,000/year in gross receipts, beginning in 2022; and

5. Requires all individuals participating in the cottage foods program to complete an MDA approved safe food handling course every three years and a free online course and exam.

Section 11 [Wild-game processor exemption] exempts certain individuals who process wild game and fowl for the animal's owner from state food handler license and permit requirements. Eligible individuals would be required to meet certain criteria, including labeling the game "Not for Sale," registering annually with MDA, forgoing certain ingredients, and selling no more than \$20,000 of such wild game or fowl products each year or the processing of 200 deer in a calendar year, whichever is greater. Requires individuals processing wild game to dispose of a white-tailed deer carcass if harvested from a chronic wasting disease management area established by the commissioner of natural resources.

Section 12 [Board of Animal Health Members; officers] adds an additional member to the Board of Animal Health and clarifies that at least four members are producers of livestock in the state and at least one of the four livestock producers is also a member of a federally recognized Tribe located in Minnesota.

Section 13 to 14 [Farmed Cervidae; CWD] modifies the Cervidae disease protection statute to allow the movement of Cervidae from a Cervidae farm located within a chronic wasting disease management or endemic zone if the Cervidae have tested negative for chronic wasting disease. Clarifies federal indemnification process wording.

Section 15 and 17 [Bioeconomy; biomass sourcing plans] except corn kernel fiber and biogas from biomass sourcing plans for advanced biofuel and renewable chemical incentive payments.

Section 16, 18, and 19 [Claims] requires advanced biofuel producers, renewable chemical producers, and biomass thermal energy producers to certify to MDA that they will not use their Bioincentive payments to compensate a lobbyist.

Section 20 to 23 [Agroforestry] modifies the Agroforestry Loan Program administered by the Rural Finance Authority (RFA) to:

1. Eliminate RFA's authority to contract with a fiscal agent for program delivery;
2. Eliminates definition of "fiscal agent";
3. Authorizes RFA to work with participating private lenders, rather than a fiscal agent, to distribute agroforestry loans to eligible borrowers and limits RFA's share of the loan to 45 percent of the total principal;
4. Authorizes RFA to require different interest rates and repayment terms for RFA's share of an agroforestry loan;
5. Modifies security requirements so that borrowers are not required to pledge an interest in their land and pay corresponding recording fees;
6. Eliminates language regarding RFA's ability to sell revenue bonds to raise funding for agroforestry loans; and
7. Clarifies funding for agroforestry loans would instead come from RFA's existing revolving loan account.

Section 23 [Police dog treatment; EMTs] allows a person certified by the Emergency Medical Services Regulatory Board to treat wounded police dogs wounded in the line of duty.

Section 24 [Farmer-Lender Mediation] extends the Farmer-Lender Mediation Act until June 30, 2027.

Section 25 [ACCRA; report] requires a report by the commissioner of agriculture on an analysis of what the maximum reimbursement or payment would be if adjusted for inflation under the Agricultural Chemical Response and Reimbursement Account Program (ACCRA).

Section 26 [Repealer] eliminates the RFA's authority to issue revenue bonds to finance the Agroforestry Loan Program.