
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

SB 5113

Brief Description: Authorizing the application of barley straw to waters of the state.

Sponsors: Senators Schoesler, Rasmussen, Holmquist, Clements, Morton, Hatfield and Pridemore.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows the use of barley straw for water clarification purposes without a state waste discharge permit.

Hearing Date: 3/22/07

Staff: Jaelyn Ford (786-7339).

Background:

Studies have shown that barley straw can reduce the growth of algae when used in specific ways. When barley straw is put into water, it starts to rot; during this process a chemical is released which inhibits the growth of algae. The chemical released by the straw does not kill algal cells already present but it prevents the growth of new algal cells.

Summary of Bill:

Barley straw may be used for water clarification purposes without a state waste discharge permit. Certain criteria must be met in order to qualify for the exemption. For instance, the straw must be placed in the water in early spring, and must be placed in areas where control is desired, such as around docks and swim areas.

If a project would normally require a Hydraulic Project Approval Permit, the use of barely straw would not exempt a project from requiring a Hydraulic Project Approval Permit.

Appropriation: None.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Fiscal Note: Not requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.