

FINAL BILL REPORT

SB 5113

C 30 L 07

Synopsis as Enacted

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

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

Senate Committee on Agriculture & Rural Economic Development

House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources

Background: Studies have shown that barley straw can reduce the growth of algae when used in specific ways. There is interest in making barley straw available for water clarification purposes in ponds and other bodies of water.

Summary: The application of barley straw to waters of the state for purposes of water clarification does not require a state waste discharge permit if certain conditions are met. The conditions include: limiting the amount of barley straw that may be used for a given surface area of water; that whole bales of densely packed straw are not to be used but instead straw is to be loosely packed in nylon or mesh bags; that bags be placed in areas where control is desired; that bags are to be staked or anchored in place; that bags be placed in the early spring prior to algae growth; and that bags be removed four to six months after placement and before winter. This section does not alter any permit requirements that may exist under the Hydraulic Project Approval statutes.

Votes on Final Passage:

Senate 47 0

House 97 0

Effective: July 22, 2007