

HB 2253 STAFF MEASURE SUMMARY

House Committee On Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water

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Meeting Dates: 1/19

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES:

Disqualifies land from farm use special assessments upon final civil penalty or judgement of conviction for illegal growing of crops against landowner or person in possession and control of the land. Specifies penalties upon disqualification. Exempts landowners who reasonably lacked knowledge of illegal growing or promptly notified law enforcement. Takes effect on 91st day following adjournment sine die.

FISCAL: May have fiscal impact, but no statement yet issued

REVENUE: May have revenue impact, but no statement yet issued

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

EFFECT OF AMENDMENT:

No amendment.

BACKGROUND:

Exclusive farm use zones are defined as lands used primarily to make a profit by farming that may apply for special farm use assessment. Properties under special assessment benefit from tax benefits intended to incentivize property owners to keep their land in agricultural production. Under current law, farmland is disqualified from special assessment if it is no longer used as farmland, the land is removed from an exclusive farm use zone, or if approval is given for a nonfarm dwelling or parcel. The removal of a property from a farm special assessment program leads to a penalty in the form of recovery of previous tax savings.

House Bill 2253 would disqualify land from farm use special assessments upon final civil penalty or judgement of conviction for illegal growing of crops against landowner or person in possession and control of the land.