**Buffer Initiative Legislative Summary**

| Exemptions and areas and activities not requiring buffers | Roads, trails, building and structures.  
| Inundated crops, alfalfa seeding, enrolled in CRP.  
| Tile line installation and maintenance.  
| Areas covered by NPDES water-quality permits.  
| “No-fault” clause to address acts of nature.  
| No permit, permission needed; SWCD validation optional.  
| *Lawns, forests, hayed land and other areas with perennial vegetation meet requirement.* |
| Maps | DNR will create buffer protection maps for public waters and public ditches that are subject to the buffer requirement. |
| Waters covered and buffer widths | Public Waters – 50-foot average buffer width with a 30-foot minimum width.  
| Public Ditches - 16.5-foot minimum width.  
| Or alternative practices (applies to both public waters and public drainage systems).  
| Other waters determined by SWCDs and adopted into water management plans to accomplish targeted voluntary or local regulatory measures. |
| Compliance | SWCDs provide correction letters when noncompliance identified.  
| Local/state $500 administrative penalty for public waters, ditches.  
| State program funds can be withheld for failure to implement. |
| Soil erosion | Local/state enforcement with $500 administrative penalty order, without local ordinance, unless cost share funds not available. |
| Timeline | Public ditch buffer requirements not dependent on redetermination trigger.  
| Buffers need to be installed on Public Waters by November 2017; on public ditches by November 2018.  
| Landowners who have applied for conservation programs or initiated a public ditch authority process can be granted a one-year extension. |
| Program funding: DNR mapping and BWSR/SWCD implementation | Legacy Bill’s Clean Water Fund includes:  
| • $5 million to BWSR for local government implementation;  
| • $650,000 to DNR for mapping. |
| Landowner financial assistance | Drainage law more flexible to provide compensation for buffers.  
| RIM buffer easements – Clean Water Fund and Outdoor Heritage Fund in Legacy bill.  
| U.S.D.A. Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) -- federal funds available for contracts to riparian landowners.  
| RIM/CREP easements -- Clean Water Fund in Legacy bill; SWCDs are point of contact for requirements and technical assistance. |