

Minnesota Drainage Law
A Chronological Summary of Key Statute Titles, Numbers and Associated Headings
Al Kean, BWSR, 12-30-18

This chronological summary of Minnesota drainage law is based on key changes of applicable statute chapter numbers, titles, and headings within chapters since “An Act to Regulate and Encourage the Drainage of Lands” was passed by the 1st Legislature of the State of Minnesota in 1858. Sources for this summary include: [Minnesota Statutes Archive](#) and [2018 Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103E Drainage](#). Chapter 112 Watersheds, which later became Chapter 103D Watershed Districts, is referenced here, because watershed districts became eligible drainage authorities for Minnesota drainage law when the Minnesota Watershed Act was passed in 1955.

- 1858 – Public Statutes of the State of Minnesota, **Chapter 128. Lands.**
- 1878 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 124. Miscellaneous Laws.,** Draining of Wet Lands.
- 1888 – Minnesota Statutes Supplement, **Chapter 124. Miscellaneous Laws.,** Draining of Wet Lands., County Drains., Drainage Districts., Town Drains.
- 1891 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 40. Drainage and Drains.,** Title 1. Drainage of Wet or Overflowed Lands., Title 2. Ditches - Drains - Water-Courses.
- 1894 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 125. Drainage and Drains.,** Title 1. Drainage Districts, Title 2. County Drains, Title 3. Town Drains, Title 4. Opening Watercourses and Streams in Red River Valley for Drainage Purposes
- 1905 – Revised Laws of Minnesota, **Chapter 44. Drainage.,** County Ditches, Judicial Ditches, State Ditches
- 1909 – Minnesota Revised Laws Supplement, **Chapter 44. Drainage.,** State Drainage Commission., County Ditches., Town Ditches., Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions.
- 1913 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 44. Drainage,** State Drainage Commission, County Ditches, Town Ditches, Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions
- 1917 – Minnesota Statutes Supplement, **Chapter 44. Drainage,** State Drainage Commission, County Ditches, Drainage in Connection with State Boundary Waters, Town Ditches, Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions
- 1923 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 44. Drainage,** State Drainage Commission, County Ditches, Town Ditches, Overflowed Lands - Streams - Lakes, Financial Provisions, Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions, Irrigation
- 1927 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 44. Drainage,** Department of Drainage and Waters, County Drains and Judicial Drains, Town Ditches, Overflowed Lands - Streams - Lakes, Financial Provisions, Curative and Miscellaneous Provisions, Irrigation
- 1941 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106. Drainage Act, Chapter 107. Drainage; Liens, Bonds, and Refunding, Chapter 108. Drainage; County and Judicial, Chapter 109. Drainage; Town, Chapter 111. Drainage and Conservancy, Chapter 112. Drainage and Flood Control, Chapter 113. Drainage; Irrigation, Other Provisions**
- 1953 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106. Drainage, Chapter 109. Town, Chapter 111. Conservancy, Chapter 112. Flood Control, Chapter 113. Irrigation, Other Provisions**
- 1957 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106. Drainage, Chapter 109. Town, Chapter 111. Conservancy, Chapter 112. Watersheds, Chapter 113. Irrigation**

- 1974 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106. Drainage, Chapter 109. Town Ditches, Chapter 111. Conservancy, Chapter 112. Watersheds**
- 1986 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106A. Drainage**, General Drainage Provisions, Procedure to Establish Drainage Systems, Outlets for Drainage Systems, Construction of Drainage System, Funding Collection and Payment of Drainage System Costs, Procedure to Repair Drainage Systems, Consolidation Division and Abandonment of Drainage Systems, **Chapter 111. Conservancy, Chapter 112. Watersheds**
- 1988 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 106A. Drainage**, General Drainage Provisions, Procedure to Establish Drainage Systems, Outlets for Drainage Systems, Construction of Drainage System, Funding Collection and Payment of Drainage System Costs, Procedure to Repair Drainage Systems, Consolidation Division and Abandonment of Drainage Systems, **Chapter 112. Watersheds**
- 1990 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 103E. Drainage**, General Provisions, Petitions for Drainage Projects, Preliminary Survey and Hearing, Detailed Survey and Viewing, Final Hearing, Redetermination of Benefits, Outlets for Drainage Systems, Construction of Drainage Project, Funding Collection and Payment of Drainage System Costs, Procedure to Repair Drainage Systems, Consolidation Division and Abandonment of Drainage Systems, **Chapter 103D. Watershed Districts**
- 2018 – Minnesota Statutes, **Chapter 103E. Drainage**, General Provisions, Petitions for Drainage Projects, Preliminary Survey and Hearing, Detailed Survey and Viewing, Final Hearing, Redetermining Benefits, Outlets for Drainage Systems, Constructing Drainage Project, Funding Collecting and Paying Drainage System Costs, Procedure to Repair Drainage Systems, Consolidating Dividing and Abandoning Drainage Systems, **Chapter 103D. Watershed Districts**