

Subject Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC)

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Overview

This bill modifies the authority of the Minnesota Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC). The AFREC account is funded through fertilizer tonnage fees, and the money in the account is appropriated to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for grants determined by AFREC. AFREC awards individual grants to projects related to the production and application of fertilizer, soil and plant amendments, regenerative agriculture, and clean water protection. This bill changes this system to have AFREC submit recommendations to the legislature for the legislature to ultimately decide how to issue grants from the AFREC account.

This bill would be effective July 1, 2027.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Powers and duties. Modifies AFREC's authority to submit recommendations to legislative agriculture committees instead of selecting projects.
2	Awarding grants. Clarifies that AFREC submits recommended projects to the legislative agriculture committees.
3	Account; appropriation. Removes the appropriation of money in the agricultural fertilizer research and education account to MDA.