

2021 Lands Bill



Why is this bill needed?

Legislative authorization is required for the DNR to make changes to state park and state forest boundaries and to sell surplus riparian land. The bill includes provisions authorizing the addition and deletion of lands from state park boundaries, and designating existing DNR-managed lands as a new state forest along the St. Louis, Whiteface and Cloquet rivers, the Riverlands State Forest. Designation of the new state forest will provide for multiple recreation uses and sustainable forest management. The bill also authorizes the private sale of a parcel of surplus riparian state land to a local unit of government.

This year's Lands Bill also proposes a change in the way DNR covers costs of review, monitoring and other services in connection with applications for utility licenses, easements and leases. Specifically, the proposed change requires the applicant who is requesting to use state land to pay for these costs, thereby preserving DNR program funding for other essential land management activities.

Major program elements

The bill would amend Minnesota Statute sections 84.415, 84.63, 84.631, 89.17 and 92.50 to include language that would require applicants for utility licenses, easements and leases to reimburse DNR for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office. Currently the DNR uses program funds to cover these costs.

The bill also authorizes the addition and deletion of land from state park boundaries, establishes the boundaries of Riverlands State Forest, and authorizes the sale of riparian land to a local unit of government.

Fiscal impacts

Authorizing the DNR to shift the costs of the review, monitoring and other services provided in connection with applications for utility licenses, easements and leases will have fiscal impacts, but the amounts are unknown.

Statute proposal

Sec. 1. Amends Minn. Stat. § 84.415 to include language that would require reimbursement by the applicant for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office in connection with utility licenses and permits.

Sec. 2. Amends Minn. Stat. § 84.63 to include language that would require reimbursement by the applicant for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office in connection with easements to state and federal governments.

Sec. 3. Amends Minn. Stat. § 84.631 to include language that would require reimbursement by the applicant for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office in connection with road easements to private persons.

Sec. 4. Designates the Riverlands State Forest in Carlton and St. Louis counties along the St. Louis, Whiteface and Cloquet rivers.

Sec. 5. Amends Minn. Stat. § 89.17 to include language that would require reimbursement by the applicant for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office in connection with leases and permits involving forest lands.

Sec. 6. Amends Minn. Stat. § 92.50 to include language that would require reimbursement by the applicant for costs incurred for review, monitoring or other services provided by the State Historic Preservation Office in connection with leasing state lands.

Sec. 7. Adds 474 acres to Lake Vermilion-Soudan Underground Mine State Park, St. Louis County.

Sec. 8. Deletes 0.26 acres from Minneopa State Park, Blue Earth County.

Sec. 9. Establishes the boundaries of the approximately 22,500 acre Riverlands State Forest in St. Louis and Carlton counties.

Sec. 10. Authorizes the private sale of 0.71 acres of surplus riparian state land in Sherburne County to the City of Big Lake for less than market value.

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