

Subject Legacy

Authors Lillie

Analyst Janelle Taylor (Articles 1-3)
Mary Mullen (Article 4)

Date April 15, 2024

Overview

This bill contains fiscal year 2025 appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund as well as supplemental fiscal year 2025 appropriations from the three other funds established by the “Legacy” amendment which raised the state’s sales tax 3/8 of one percent and dedicated the receipts. It also provides extensions of previous appropriations.

Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

This article contains appropriations totaling \$192,711,000 from the outdoor heritage fund (OHF) based upon recommendations made by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). The LSOHC is a 12-member council made up of four legislators and eight citizens tasked with making annual recommendations to the legislature on how to spend money in the OHF. The OHF receives 33 percent of the receipts from the sales tax increase and may be spent only “to restore, protect, and enhance wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife.”

Section	Description – Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund
---------	--

1	Outdoor heritage fund appropriation.
---	---

Technical.

2	Outdoor heritage fund.
---	-------------------------------

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides total appropriations of \$192,711,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the outdoor heritage fund.

Subd. 2. Prairies. Specifies appropriations totaling \$19,439,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s prairies.

Section Description – Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Subd. 3. Forests. Specifies appropriations totaling \$32,164,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s forests.

Subd. 4. Wetlands. Specifies appropriations totaling \$38,412,000 for various projects restoring, enhancing, and protecting the state’s wetlands.

Subd. 5. Habitats. Specifies appropriations totaling \$101,294,000 for various other habitat projects and the conservation partners legacy grant program.

Subd. 6. Administration. Specifies appropriations totaling \$1,402,000 for administration, including contract management and other services from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and restoration and enhancement evaluations.

Subd. 7. Availability of appropriation. States that money appropriated may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan and may not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to a specific appropriation. Provides for the availability of funding depending on the use of the funds and whether or not federal funds are also used.

Subd. 8. Payment conditions and capital equipment expenditures. Requires all agreements to be administered on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise provided. Allows reasonable amounts to be advanced in some circumstances if approved as part of an accomplishment plan. Requires capital expenditures that exceed \$10,000 to be itemized and approved as part of an accomplishment plan.

Subd. 9. Mapping. Requires recipients of an appropriation to submit geographic information on lands acquired in fee with the appropriation that are open to the public for hunting and fishing to the DNR for mapping.

Subd. 10. Carryforwards. Extends the availability of a number of previous appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund.

Article 2: Clean Water Fund

This article contains supplemental fiscal year 2025 appropriations from the clean water fund (CWF). The CWF receives 33 percent of the revenues from the sales tax increase and must be spent “only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation.”

Section Description – Article 2: Clean Water Fund

- 1 Clean water fund appropriations.**
Technical.
- 2 Clean water fund.**
Provides total appropriations of \$25,426,000 in fiscal year 2025 from the clean water fund, specifies the availability of the appropriations, and establishes other requirements similar to requirements for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 clean water fund appropriations.
- 3 Department of Agriculture.**
Provides \$4,402,000 to the Department of Agriculture (MDA), including money to monitor and evaluate nitrate trends in groundwater and for the agriculture best management practices loan program.
- 4 Pollution Control Agency.**
Provides \$5,326,000 to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), including money for statewide surface water quality assessments, subsurface sewage treatment system activities, grants to reduce chloride pollution, and installation of a continuous nitrate-monitoring network.
- 5 Department of Natural Resources.**
Provides \$90,000 to the DNR for assessing mercury and other fish contaminants and tracking the status of impaired waters.
- 6 Board of Water and Soil Resources.**
Provides \$11,434,000 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), including money for a working lands floodplain program, conservation easements, a water legacy grant program, and Great Lakes restoration projects.
- 7 Department of Health.**
Provides \$3,174,000 to the Department of Health (MDH), including money for developing health risk limits, and a voluntary private well testing program in southeastern Minnesota.
- 8 University of Minnesota.**
Provides \$1,000,000 to the University of Minnesota to evaluate stormwater best management practices.

Article 3: Parks and Trails Fund

This article contains supplemental fiscal year 2025 from the parks and trails fund. The parks and trails fund receives 14.25 percent of the revenues from the sales tax increase and must be spent to “support parks and trails of regional or statewide significance.”

The parks and trails fund is traditionally split as follows: 40 percent to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for state parks, state trails, and state recreation areas; 40 percent to the Metropolitan Council for metropolitan regional parks and trails; and 20 percent for regional parks and trails in greater Minnesota through the parks and trails legacy grant program administered by the DNR based on recommendations made by the Greater Minnesota Parks and Trails Commission. This article proportionally increases each 2025 appropriation based on new revenue estimates from the February forecast, providing an increase in total spending from \$64,455,000 to \$73,563,000. The article also specifies that of the money for metropolitan regional parks and trails, \$182,000 is for competitive grants to provide free or reduced-cost equipment and facility rentals to youth and low-income users, and \$250,000 is for competitive grants for fishing piers. It also provides extensions of previous parks and trails fund appropriations.

Article 4: Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

This article contains supplemental funding for fiscal year 2025 from the arts and cultural heritage fund. The arts and cultural heritage fund receives 19.75 percent of the revenues from the sales tax increase and must be spent to support the arts and preserve Minnesota’s history and cultural heritage.

This article increases each of the 2025 appropriations based on new revenue estimates from the February forecast, providing an increase in total spending of \$12,209,000, in addition to the appropriation made in 2023 for fiscal year 2025 of \$88,928,000.

Section

1 Arts and cultural heritage fund appropriation.

Provides the general appropriation language, including that funding in fiscal year 2025 is for the fiscal year of July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025.

2 Arts and cultural heritage.

Provides that \$12,209,000 is appropriated in 2025 to supplement the funding already appropriated for these purposes, and that the funding is available until June 30, 2026.

This section provides the following funding to arts and cultural agencies and organizations:

Section

- \$5,738,000 to the State Arts Board for various programs and purposes including funding arts organizations, individual artists, and the Regional Arts Councils, which receive 30 percent of this appropriation.
- \$1,612,000 to the Minnesota Historical Society to provide grants to various organizations related to historical buildings and activities commemorating historical events.
- \$450,000 to the Department of Administration to fund a competitive Veterans Memorial grant program, a competitive grant program for art programs in prisons and for those who are on supervised release, and the repair of the Loring Park fountain.
- \$4,409,000 to the Minnesota Humanities Center for the following activities:
 - Adds \$2,000,000 to the Community Identity and Heritage Grant Program;
 - Adds \$214,000 the capacity building grant program;
 - Provides specific funding for cultural festivals, including \$150,000 for a baby box for new mothers, \$100,000 for (Neo)Muralismos, and \$100,000 to Rondo Days;
 - Provides \$250,000 to underrepresented cultural and ethnic studies materials;
 - Provides grants to the Urban Debate League, Monkeybear puppetry artists, Indigenous Roots and Cypher Side arts programs, Hrvatski Dom Croation Hall, and the Saint Paul Neighborhood Network (SPNN) film program; and
 - Creates a competitive grant program for students to fund music and art education through scholarships.



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn.gov/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155