

Subject Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources

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Overview

This bill modifies the membership of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) and makes other changes governing the LCCMR and environment and natural resources trust fund.

The LCCMR is tasked with making recommendations on how money in the environment and natural resources trust fund is spent. The environment and natural resources trust fund is a constitutionally dedicated fund that may be spent only on the “protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources.” The fund receives 40 percent of the net proceeds from the state lottery.

Under current law, the LCCMR is made up of 17 members with ten legislators and seven citizens. There are five legislative members from each body, including the chair of the environment and natural resources finance committee (or their designee), and four additional members, two of which must be from the minority party. The citizen members include five members appointed by the Governor and one member appointed by the House of Representatives and one member appointed by the Senate.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Membership.
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	Modifies the membership of the LCCMR. The commission would remain a 17-member commission, however, there would be nine citizen members, all appointed by the Governor, including one member from each congressional district and one member recommended by the Tribal government representatives of the Indian Affairs Council. There would be four legislative members from each body, two from each major caucus (two members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives and two members appointed by the Senate’s Subcommittee on
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Section	Description
	Committees of the Committee on Rules and Administration, including the chairs of the environment and natural resources finance committee or their designees, and two members appointed by the minority leader from each body). Members would also be prohibited from being a lobbyist. Allows citizen members to be compensated at a rate of up to \$125 per day (under current law it is \$55 per day). Removes a provision stating that the governor's appointments are subject to the advice and consent of the Senate.
2	Citizen selection committee. Modifies provisions governing the citizen selection committee which identifies and recommends candidates for citizen appointments to the LCCMR. The citizen selection committee would be responsible for recommending candidates representing the eight congressional districts and they would serve two-year terms.
3	Duties. Makes conforming changes related to the next section.
4	Conflict of Interest. Prohibits a member from voting on a motion regarding the final recommendations of the commission if the motion relates to an organization in which the member has a direct financial personal interest. Reduces the super majority requirement needed to approve the final recommendations of the commission by the number of members prohibited from voting.
5	Availability of funds for disbursement. Removes language requiring money from the environment and natural resources trust fund that is not encumbered in the biennium it is appropriated in, to cancel and be credited back to the trust fund.
6	Capital project proposal requirements. Requires proposals submitted to the LCCMR for capital projects with a construction cost of \$750,000 or more to include certain information.
7	Initial citizen appointments and first meeting. Requires new appointments to the revised LCCMR to be made by February 1, 2023, and the first meeting to be convened by June 15, 2023. Provides staggered terms for the initial citizen members, with four members' terms ending in January of 2025, and five members' terms ending in January of 2027.
8	Effective date. States that the effective date for sections 1 to 7 is January 1, 2023.



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