

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 143

SESSION: 2009 Regular Session

TOPIC: LCCMR recommended appropriations

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Overview

This act appropriates funds from the environment and natural resources trust fund based on recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Section

1 Minnesota resources appropriations. Technical.

2 Minnesota resources.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides total fiscal year 2010 appropriations as follows: \$25,622,000 from the environmental and natural resources trust fund, \$66,000 from the Great Lakes protection account, and \$400,000 from the State Land and Water Conservation Account (LAWCON).

Subd. 2. Definitions. Technical.

Subd. 3. Natural Resource data and information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resource data and information projects of \$5,995,000, including funding for:

- (a) the Minnesota County Biological Survey;
- (b) the county geologic atlas program;
- (c) the Board of Water and Soil Resources for county soil survey mapping;
- (d) the identification of supply areas and springsheds for springs serving as coldwater sources for trout streams; and

- (e) an agreement with Ducks Unlimited to complete an inventory, mapping, and digitization of drained restorable wetlands.

Subd. 4. Land, habitat, and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land and habitat acquisition and restoration projects of \$13,227,000, including funding for:

- (a) state park in-holding acquisitions;
- (b) state trail acquisitions;
- (c) land acquisition within the Metropolitan Regional Park System;
- (d) acquisition and restoration of scientific and natural areas;
- (e) a sixth appropriation for the Minnesota Habitat Conservation Partnership;
- (f) a fifth appropriation for the Metro Conservation Corridors (MeCC) project;
- (g) BWSR to identify and rank the ecological value of CRP and other critical lands;
- (h) BWSR, in cooperation with the Renville County SWCD, to acquire perpetual easements of unique granite outcrops in the Upper Minnesota River Valley;
- (i) BWSR to provide technical assistance in implementing conservation programs, including programs in the federal farm bill; and
- (j) state LAWCON projects.

Subd. 5. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$2,063,000, including funding for:

- (a) research on endocrine disruptor removal;
- (b) research on fish vulnerability to endocrine disruptors;
- (c) research on the impacts of ecological drivers in deep lakes with coldwater fish populations;
- (d) research comparing hydrologic changes in watersheds with and without intensive tile drainage;
- (e) Metro Blooms, in cooperation with the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District and Minneapolis, to install and evaluate the effectiveness of rain gardens; and
- (f) an analysis of Minnesota's drainage law.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$1,068,000, including funding for:

- (a) ballast water monitoring and evaluation of treatment systems;
- (b) evaluating ballast water treatment through tank access ports or air vents;
- (c) the assessment of control mechanisms for the fish disease heterosporosis;

- (d) the development and testing of sonic barriers to control invasive carp;
- (e) risk assessment and testing recommendations to reduce the impacts of invasive earthworms; and
- (f) the survey of plant, pollinator, and invertebrate biodiversity in native and restored prairies.

Subd. 7. Energy. Provides a total appropriation of \$2,323,000 for energy projects, including funding for:

- (a) an analysis of the Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group's recommendation related to electrical power;
- (b) combining climatic records of the state with present and past ecosystem boundaries to forecast future impacts on human activities and natural resources; and
- (c) demonstration projects for residential energy efficiency delivery and financing strategies.

Subd. 8. Administration and other. Provides a total appropriation of \$1,412,000 for the administration of the LCCMR, including \$158,000 for contract management provided by the DNR.

Subds. 9 to 16 are standard subdivisions and other project requirements set forth as part of the LCCMR recommendations. These include: specifying the availability of appropriations; data requirements; specific project requirements, including requiring restoration to use native vegetation and seeds, and requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term stewardship plan; and providing carry forwards for previous appropriations.

- 3 Duties.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 2. Permits the LCCMR to provide recommendations in the form of an annual or biennial legislative bill (currently they are required to make the recommendations annually).
- 4 Legislative recommendations.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 4. Permits the LCCMR to provide recommendations in the form of an annual or biennial legislative bill (currently they are required to make the recommendations annually).
- 5 Royalties, copyrights, patents, and sale of products and assets.** Amends § 116P.10. Technical correction needed related to changes in sections 3 and 4.