

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 236

SESSION: 2012 Regular Session

TOPIC: Omnibus Lands Bill

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions related to state lands, including providing for the expedited exchange of state lands in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA), modifying lease and easement terms, amending state park and state forest boundaries, and providing approval of the sale, exchange, and conveyance of certain lands.

- 1 Road easements across state lands.** Amends § 84.631. Allows the commissioner of natural resources to convey a road easement across school trust lands to private individuals and limits these easements to 50-year terms.
- 2 Heartland Trail, Clay, Becker, Hubbard, and Cass Counties.** Amends § 85.015, subd. 12. Requires the Heartland Trail to connect to Itasca State Park.
- 3 Lease terms.** Amends § 92.50, subd. 1. Increases the maximum length that the commissioner of natural resources may lease certain state lands for from ten years to 21 years.
- 4 Expedited exchange of land within Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for federally owned lands.** Adds § 92.80.

Subd. 1. Purpose and scope. States the purpose of the section.

Subd. 2. Classes of land. States that lands that may be involved in the expedited exchanges authorized in this section are school trust lands, university lands, other lands under the control of the commissioner of natural resources, and tax-forfeited lands.

Subd. 3. Priority. Requires priority to be given for exchanges with lands providing the most opportunity for revenue generation for the permanent school fund, including lands in the Mesabi Purchase Unit in St. Louis County and certain townships in St. Louis County.

Subd. 4. Valuation of land; goals. Requires the examination and value of the lands to be determined in a manner agreed to by the commissioner (or the county for tax-forfeited lands) and an authorized representative of the United States. Requires lands exchanged to be at least "substantially equal" in value (which means that when the lands are both over 100 acres, their values do not differ by more than ten percent, and in other cases, the values of the lands do not differ by more than 20 percent). Establishes goals for the exchange, including that the state receive at least the number of acres given in the exchange and that mineral and surface rights be reunited.

Subd. 5. Title. Requires the title to be examined to the extent necessary to determine it is good and allows the use of title insurance.

Subd. 6. Approval by Land Exchange Board. Requires all exchanges under this section to be approved by the Land Exchange Board.

Subd. 7. Conveyance. Requires the commissioner of natural resources to convey, by deed, lands under the control of the commissioner and the commissioner of revenue to convey, by deed, the tax-forfeited lands. Subjects land exchanged under this section to the reservation of mineral and other rights as currently provided by law.

Subd. 8. Land status. Subjects lands received in exchange to the same trust, if any, as the lands given.

- 5 Private sale of surplus state land with the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; Cook, Lake, and St. Louis Counties.** Adds § 92.82. Authorizes the sale of surplus state land within the BWCA and requires that payment for lands that have had the school trust interest extinguished be used to pay the award under the condemnation action.
- 6 Deletion from state parks.** Removes land from Interstate State Park and McCarthy Beach State Park.
- 7 Additions to state recreation areas.** Expands the boundaries of Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area and the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area.
- 8 Deletion from state recreation area.** Removes land from the Iron Range Off-Highway Vehicle Recreation Area.
- 9 Deletion from state forest.** Removes land from Fond du Lac State Forest (which is added to Nemadji State Forest in the next section).
- 10 Addition to state forest.** Adds land removed from the Fond du Lac State Forest in the previous section to Nemadji State Forest.
- 11 Mississippi River management plan; critical area administration.** Exempts the portions of the Mississippi River within the cities of Dayton and Ramsey from the wild and scenic river designation and classifies the land as rural open space and establishes the zoning standards in effect on March 1, 2012, as the minimum standards for purposes of the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area provisions.
- 12 to 29 Sale and conveyance of lands.** Permits the private and public sale and conveyance of certain lands as described in the bill.