

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Ozment

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**Analyst:** John Helland

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### Overview

This is the 2004 Environment and Natural Resources bill on appropriations and reductions.

#### Section

- 1** Shows that total appropriation reductions are \$1,888,000 in fiscal year 2005.
- 2** Cuts the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) by \$281,000. Appropriates \$70,000 to fund the Clean Water Council created by section 38.
- 3** Cuts the Office of Environmental Assistance by \$132,000.
- 4** Cuts the Zoological Board by \$197,000.
- 5** Makes a general fund cut of \$8,461,000 to the Department of Natural Resources. Appropriates \$7,240,000 from the natural resources fund for various duties, the largest being for the new forest management investment account created by section 24. Also appropriates \$400,000 from various off-highway vehicle accounts for the state forest trail development, and \$575,000 from the off-highway vehicle accounts for additional grants-in-aid. Stipulates that none of the DNR reduction may come from grant programs.
- 6** Cuts the Board of Water and Soil Resources by \$127,000.
- 7** Appropriates \$50,000 for one year from the forest suspense account for the DNR to identify and lease construction aggregates located on state trust lands.
- 8** Technical change for DNR contracts and grants for provision of services.
- 9** Allows DNR billing of organizational units within the department for providing necessary services.
- 10** Changes 2003 law for off-highway vehicle operation by allowing them on frozen public

## Section

waters wetlands, on all type 8 wetlands, and private land with permission, but prohibits them on calcareous fens. Exempts any operation for farming purposes, public safety use, forestry activities, and use by a utility or pipeline company. Allows a 3-year permit to be given for a private landowner to access their land when the only way is across state forest land.

- 11 Adds forest lands classified as "managed" by the DNR to statute that allows off-highway operation on certain DNR land (Minn. Stat. § 84.777).
- 12 Details how a off-highway motorcycle must display their registration decal.
- 13 States that off-highway vehicles must be legally registered to operate on DNR lands, or areas funded with state aid.
- 14 Allows money in the snowmobile grant-in-aid account to be spent for ice trails on Lake of the Woods, Rainy Lake, and several lakes in St. Louis county.
- 15 Increases the engine displacement of an all-terrain vehicle as defined in law to 900 cubic centimeters.
- 16 Allows all-terrain vehicle instructors in safety courses to charge an additional fee up to \$5.
- 17 Technical.
- 18 Allows an over-18 all-terrain vehicle rider to carry one passenger, but helmeted if under 18.
- 19 Provides, on state forest lands except the Dorer Memorial Hardwood Forest, the ability for operating all-terrain vehicles when hunting or transporting big game.
- 20 Technical to conform with section 18.
- 21 Allows a county board to authorize all-terrain vehicle use on shoulders or ditches when the road is designated minimum-maintenance.
- 22 States consolidated conservation area monies from timber sale receipts shall go to new forest management investment account.
- 23 Same as above for statute relating to state forest lands.
- 24 Creates the forest management investment account comprised of timber sale receipts, and depicts what the monies may be used for.
- 25 Requires new forest trails to be by DNR commissioner's written order, exempt from rulemaking, but a public meeting is required in the county with most trail mileage.
- 26 Mandates that the DNR may not issue more turtle seller's licenses in any year than the number issued in 2004.
- 27 Allows four more years, to 2008, for the Board of Water and Soil Resource's shoreland protection program.
- 28 Permits the DNR to establish different water level controls for a public water with an outlet under certain prescribed conditions that protects the public's interest.
- 29 States the PCA must encourage citizen water quality monitoring, at least thru 2009.
- 30 Details how an individual sewage treatment system can be designated by the PCA as a "warranted system."
- 31 Restricts the \$25 septic system tank fee to one per household system installation.
- 32 Defines advanced treatment septic system terms, including "biodigester and water reclamation systems" that separately collect and segregate greywater from blackwater.

**Subd. 2.** States the requirements biodigester and water reclamation systems must meet to operate in the state.

- 33 Establishes a ten-year program for certifying biodigester and water reclamation system use with current state PCA and health department standards for discharge and potable water. Contains a variety of other requirements and specifications for this new type of individual wastewater treatment technology.

**Section**

- 34** Extends the Environmental Education Advisory Board to 2007.
- 35** Technical for above.
- 36** Technical.
- 37** Provides the coordination and cooperation for the PCA impaired waters program with the other public agencies and interested parties.
- 38** Establishes a Clean Waters Council of 17 members to assist and advise in the implementation of the impaired waters program. DNR, PCA, Agriculture and BOWSR shall each have one member, and the remaining 13 represent nonagency interested parties.
- 39** Reduces the penalty for not removing a mercury switch from a crushed motor vehicle to a petty misdemeanor.
- 40** Includes individuals, and possible zero interest rate, for water system improvement loans that may be authorized from trust fund dollars by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources.
- 41** Defines "water system improvement," to go along with above section, to mean enhancement of existing water system infrastructure to include water supply systems and individual sewage treatment systems.
- 42** Technical.
- 43** Technical.
- 44** Permits each state forest sustaining off-highway vehicle use to include the three different types of off-highway vehicles, with their own trails and levels of difficulty.
- 45** Requires the DNR to appoint a separate task force for an independent study of snowmobile use and funding purposes.
- 46** Extends several LCMR projects for receipt of the availability of past appropriations so the projects can be completed. Allows \$6,000 of a 2003 appropriation to be used for a nonmetro regional park inventory.
- 47** Requires the LCMR to study a fairness ratio of operation and maintenance costs for all regional parks in the state.
- 48** Requires a DNR study, with stakeholder groups, of current lake management programs and the need for a possible local grant program for lake needs.
- 49** Repeals a requirement concerning the PCA's possible classification of new individual sewage treatment technology.
- 50** Makes the sections effective the day following final enactment, unless a different date is specified for some.