

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Transfers the Minnesota Conservation Corps to a private, non-profit corporation, the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps. Repeals statutes relating to the DNR operating a Minnesota Conservation Corps.

Section

1 Transfer.

Subd. 1. Transfer. Transfers the Minnesota Conservation Corps to a private non-profit corporation, the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps. Provides for audit of expenditure of state funds by the legislative auditor and for annual reports to the legislature.

Subd. 2. Staff; corps members. Provides that Corps staff are not state employees, but, at the option of the nonprofit corporation board, may participate in state retirement, deferred compensation, and insurance programs. Provides that employment as a conservation corps member is non-covered employment for purposes of eligibility for unemployment benefits. Authorizes Corps staff and members to participate in the state workers' compensation program.

Subd. 3. State and other agency collaboration; contracts. Provides for state agencies to collaborate with the Corps. Authorizes a state agency to enter into contract with the Corps without following the solicitation procedures in chapter 16C.

Subd. 4. Purchases. Authorizes the Corps to purchase or lease equipment and services

through state contracts.

Subd. 5. Limitations on projects. Requires employing state or local agencies to certify that assignment of corps members will not result in displacement of current workers or workers on layoff.

- 2 **Transfer of assets.** Transfer to the Corps the state's ownership interest in tools, computers, and other supplies and equipment acquired by the DNR for Corps purposes.
- 3 **Transfer of funds.** Transfer to the Corps the remaining balances in Corps accounts.
- 4 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2004 and \$1.2 million in fiscal year 2005 to the Friends of the Minnesota Conservation Corps. Some of this money is from the general fund and some from the natural resources fund.
- 5 **Repealer.** Repeals existing statutes creating the Corps as a state program.