

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Subject:** Big Marine Disabled Veterans Rest Camp  
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### Overview

By law, counties currently have authority to acquire property by eminent domain for a range of purposes. Under this bill, a county may not use that authority in several instances to acquire certain property used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans. This bill also provides that, for purposes of municipal and county zoning, certain property used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans is a planned unit development district and a legal conforming use. The bill also exempts such property from property taxes and excludes it from the regional recreational open space system. Ingress or egress to or from such properties may not be restricted below levels permitted on January 1, 2005. Finally, the bill provides that the Disabled Veteran's Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington County must continue to develop and promote camp features for disabled veterans, offer Washington County a right of first refusal to the property, and provide an easement across the camp's main road. The camp must also modify its policies relating to rotation of campsites, cabins and parking spaces in specified ways.

### Section

- 1** **Forest management.** Prohibits acquisition by condemnation of property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, for purposes of forest management.
- 2** **Local water management plans.** Prohibits acquisition by condemnation of property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and

owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, for purposes of implementation of local water management plans.

- 3 **Property tax exemption.** Provides that property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families is exempt from property taxation.
- 4 **County fair land.** Prohibits acquisition by condemnation of property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, for county fair land.
- 5 **County nursing home.** Prohibits acquisition by condemnation of property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, for a county nursing home.
- 6 **County zoning.** Provides that property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, is a planned unit development district and a legal conforming use.
- 7 **County parks.** Prohibits acquisition by condemnation of property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, for county parks.
- 8 **Municipal zoning.** Provides that property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families, is a planned unit development district and a legal conforming use.
- 9 **Regional recreational open space system.** Provides that the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington County is excluded from the Metropolitan Council's regional recreational open space system.
- 10 **Ingress and egress.** Provides that no county may restrict ingress or egress to property located in a county in the metropolitan area with a population of less than 500,000, and owned or leased and operated by a nonprofit organization, and primarily used to provide recreational opportunities to disabled veterans and their families below levels permitted on January 1, 2005.
- 11 **Camp requirements.** Provides that the Disabled Veterans Rest Camp on Big Marine Lake in Washington County must:
- continue to promote camp features and amenities for disabled veterans,
  - offer Washington County a right of first refusal for the camp,
  - grant an easement across the main veteran's camp road to connect the north and south areas of the park,
  - modify its policies to provide for regular rotation of cabins, campsites and parking spaces.
- 12 **Effective date.** The tax exemption is effective for assessment year 2005 and thereafter for taxes payable in 2006 and thereafter. The remainder of the bill is effective the day following

final enactment.