

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes the legislature's intent to provide up to \$9.4 million per year for 25 years as a portion of the funding for a new football stadium on the University campus after the University has raised at least \$124 million from nonstate sources. This bill also provides for use restrictions, and eventual transfer to the state, of certain University-owned land in Dakota County.

Section

- 1** **Definitions.** Defines "commissioner," "stadium," "Board," "commission," "University land," "permitted University uses," "other permitted uses," and "prohibited uses."
- 2** **Recognition of powers.** Recognizes that the Board of Regents has all powers necessary or convenient to design, construct, equip and operate a new stadium.
- 3** **Public use of stadium.** Requests that the Board of Regents provide ample opportunities for use of the stadium by public bodies.
- 4** **Conditions for payment to University.** Provides for an annual transfer to the University up to \$9.4 million for up to 25 years to cover debt service on bonds to be issued to pay the state's share of the cost of the stadium. These payments will not begin until at least \$124 million has been committed to the stadium project from nonstate sources. Bonds issued to pay the state's share of the cost may not exceed \$124 million. Requires the student fee to remain at a fixed level for a period equal to the term of the bonds.
- 5** **No full faith and credit.** Provides that any bonds issued by the University are not public debt of the state and that the full faith and credit of the state is not pledged for their payment.

Section

6 Land protection and transfer.

Subd. 1. As a condition of receiving the payments from the state described in section 4, the University must file with the county recorder a declaration of its perpetual covenant to limit the use of the land to the permitted uses and to proscribe the use of the land for the prohibited uses. The University and the Department of Natural Resources must endeavor to enter into either a joint powers agreement or a conservation easement to provide for the cooperative oversight of the land. This section does not impair the rights of third parties under existing agreements.

Subd. 2. The University shall offer to convey the land to the state for \$1 no later than the date of the final payment by the state under section 4. That conveyance will be subject to the perpetual right of the University to use the land for permitted University uses. The conveyance will also limit the use of the land to the other permitted uses. The state will make no claim against the University for environmental contamination that occurred prior to the University's obtaining title to the property, and the University will promptly endeavor and use due diligence to resolve its claims against the federal government for such contamination.

Subd. 3. Provides that restrictions upon the University under subdivisions 1 and 2 and the University's obligation to transfer the property to the state are void if the state fails to make any payment under section 4.

7 Lease termination. Permits termination of University's lease at the Metrodome on or after completion of the new stadium.

8 Recreation program assessment. Requires the Board of Regents and the commissioner of natural resources to submit an assessment of short-term and long-term programmatic plans for the land to the governor and legislature by January 15, 2007.

9 Revisor instruction. Instructs the Revisor of Statutes to codify provisions of the bill in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 137.

10 Effective date. Effective the day following final enactment.