

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes a new grant program for statewide and regionally significant parks and trails outside the metropolitan area that would receive 24 percent of the revenue from the new parks and trails fund established by the constitutional amendment passed in November 2008 that raised the state's sales and use tax rate three-eighths of one percent and dedicated the receipts for natural resource and cultural purposes.

Section

1 Parks and trails fund. Amends § 85.53.

Subd. 1. Fund established. Technical.

Subd. 2. Parks and trails legacy grant program. (a) Requires the commissioner of natural resources to establish a grant program to assist local governments in acquiring, developing, improving, and restoring parks and trails of regional or statewide significance. States that to be eligible for grants, a local unit of government must be located outside the metropolitan area, and be a county, statutory or home rule charter city, or town, a joint powers organization, or other special purpose district or parks or trails related authority.

(b) States that 24 percent of the money deposited in the parks and trails fund shall be allocated for the grant program and requires one percent, up to a maximum of \$10,000,000, to be reserved for emergency acquisition of lands. States that the grants must supplement, and not supplant traditional sources of funding.

(c) Requires grants to be for capital projects and requires a nonstate match of at least 25 percent which may be cash or in-kind services.

(d) Requires the commissioner to determine priorities for awarding grants. The priorities must be based on the state comprehensive outdoor recreation plan and be

developed with the assistance of an advisory task force.

(e) Exempts the commissioner from the rulemaking process for purposes of the grant program and allows the commissioner to specify eligibility criteria, the definitions for land eligible for emergency acquisition, and the administration of the program.