

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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### Overview

**This bill establishes a regional dog park permit and appropriates funding to the Metropolitan Council for competitive matching grants to local units of government within the Metropolitan Council's geographic jurisdiction. Matched 1:2, the grants provide for the establishment, expansion, and maintenance of dog parks. State appropriations come from the parks and trails portion of the voter-approved 3/8 percent statewide sales tax increase.**

### Section

- 1 Regional dog park permit program.** Requires the Metropolitan Council to establish and administer a regional dog park permit program within its Twin Cities metropolitan area jurisdiction. This area includes the counties of Anoka; Carver; Dakota excluding the city of Northfield; Hennepin excluding the cities of Hanover and Rockford; Ramsey; Scott excluding the city of New Prague; and Washington. A county, city or town that receives grant funding must allow a person possessing a valid regional dog park permit to use the funded park(s).
- 2 Dog park matching grant program.** Directs the Metropolitan Council to award matching funds to metropolitan counties, cities and towns for the establishment, expansion, or maintenance of dog parks. A participating local unit of government must provide \$1 of matching funds or in-kind contributions for each \$2 of state funding received. In addition, the local unit of government must post certain dog park rules and signage indicating that the park was funded by the people of Minnesota via a constitutional amendment. Requires the Metropolitan Council to rank eligible applicants according to specified criteria, seek the advice of its parks and open space commission and report to the legislature by January 15, 2011.
- 3 Dog park permit and grants.** Appropriates \$1 million over the fiscal years 2010-2011 biennium from the constitutionally-dedicated parks and trails fund to the Metropolitan

Council to carry out the programs in sections 1 and 2.

- 4 **Application.** Specifies that sections 1 to 3 apply to Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, Scott and Washington counties.