

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes conservation easement stewardship accounts for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and transfers previous appropriations to the accounts.

Section

1 Natural resources conservation easement stewardship account. Adds § 84.69

Subd. 1. Account established; sources. Establishes a natural resources conservation easement stewardship account and specifies the sources of money to be deposited in the account and how the money is to be invested.

Subd. 2. Appropriation; purposes of account. Establishes an annual statutory appropriation to the commissioner of natural resources of 5 percent of the balance of the account. States that the money may only be used to cover the costs of managing conservation easements held by the DNR.

Subd. 3. Financial contributions. Requires the commissioner to seek contributions to the account for conservation easements acquired or assigned to the DNR. Allows the commissioner to determine the amount of the contribution, unless otherwise provided by law, and provides elements the commissioner must consider when determining the amount.

Effective date. States that subdivisions 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment and subdivision 3 is effective for conservation easements acquired on or after July 1, 2015.

Section

2 Easement stewardship accounts. Adds § 103B.103.

Subd. 1. Accounts established; sources. Establishes a water and soil conservation easement stewardship account and a mitigation easement stewardship account. Specifies the sources of money to be deposited in the accounts and how the money is to be invested.

Subd. 2. Appropriation; purposes of accounts. Establishes an annual statutory appropriation to BWSR of 5 percent of the balance of the accounts. States that the money may only be used to cover the costs of managing conservation easements held by the board.

Subd. 3. Financial contributions. Requires the board to seek contributions to the water and soil resources account for conservation easements acquired by the board and to seek a contribution to or assess a payment to the mitigation easement stewardship account for each wetland banking easement acquired by the board. Allows the board to determine the amount of the contribution, unless otherwise provided by law, and provides elements the board must consider when determining the amount.

Effective date. States that subdivisions 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment and subdivision 3 is effective for conservation easements acquired on or after July 1, 2015.

3 Transfers. Transfers previous appropriations to the DNR and BWSR for conservation easement stewardship to the respective new conservation easement stewardship accounts established in this bill.

4 Repealer. Repeals section 84.68, which establishes a forest for the future conservation easement account for conservation easement stewardship costs for easements acquired through the forests for the future program. Funds within the account are transferred to a new account as provided in section 3.