

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 3829
Version: Second engrossment

DATE: April 27, 2016

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Subject: Omnibus Legacy Bill

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Overview

This bill provides appropriations from sales tax revenues deposited in the outdoor heritage fund and provisions affecting the outdoor heritage fund, parks and trails fund and arts and cultural heritage fund (three of the four dedicated funds under Article XI, section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution often referred to as the “Legacy Funds”).

Article 1: Outdoor Heritage Fund

Overview

This article contains the fiscal year 2017 appropriations from the outdoor heritage fund based on the recommendations of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC).

Section

1 Outdoor heritage appropriation. Technical.

2 Outdoor heritage.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$107,777,000 from the outdoor heritage fund in fiscal year 2017.

Subd. 2. Prairies. Provides a total appropriation of \$31,000,000 for various prairie projects.

Section

Subd. 3. Forests. Provides a total appropriation of \$16,309,000 for various forest projects.

Subd. 4. Wetlands. Provides a total appropriation of \$31,055,000 for various wetland projects.

Subd. 5. Habitats. Provides a total appropriation of \$29,138,000 for various habitat projects.

Subd. 6. Administration. Provides a total appropriation of \$275,000 for administration, including contract management services from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and other expenses.

Subd. 7. Availability of appropriation. States that money appropriated may not be spent on activities unless they are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and are specified in the accomplishment plan and may not be spent on indirect costs or other institutional overhead charges that are not directly related to a specific appropriation. Provides for the availability of funding depending on the use of the funds and whether or not federal funds are also used.

Subd. 8. Payment conditions and capital equipment expenditures. Requires all agreements to be administered on a reimbursement basis unless otherwise provided. Allows reasonable amounts to be advanced in some circumstances if approved as part of an accomplishment plan. Requires capital expenditures that exceed \$10,000 to be itemized and approved as part of an accomplishment plan.

Subd. 9. Mapping. Requires recipients of an appropriation to submit geographic information on lands acquired in fee that are open to the public for hunting and fishing to the DNR for mapping.

Subd. 10. RIM buffers for wildlife and water restorations. Allows previous appropriations for the RIM buffers for wildlife and water program to be used to restore land with easements acquired with those appropriations.

Subd. 11. Appropriations contingent upon audit. States that the appropriations in this section are not available until the Legislative Auditor completes the next financial audit of the outdoor heritage fund and publishes the list of noncompliant recipients. Noncompliant recipients are not allowed to receive funds until they are removed from the list (the list is required as part of a law passed last session).

- 3 **Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 2. Gives the authority to appoint council staff and contract with consultants to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC). Under current law, the council may do so “upon coordination with” the LCC.
- 4 **Restoration and enhancements evaluations.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 10. Expands the evaluation requirements currently applicable to lands restored with money from the outdoor heritage fund so that they also apply to lands enhanced with money from the outdoor heritage fund.
- 5 **Local approval of land acquisitions.** Amends § 97A.056, subd. 22. Requires a recipient of money from the outdoor heritage fund acquiring land in fee to get county approval prior to acquiring the land.

Section

- 6** **Prairies.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 2. Technical.
- 7** **Forests.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 3. Amends a previous appropriation from the outdoor heritage fund to allow the DNR to acquire lands in Hubbard County as part of its Protecting Pinelands Sands Aquifer Forestlands project. The section has a retroactive effective date.
- 8** **Habitats.** Amends Laws First Special Session 2015, ch. 2, art. 1, § 2, subd. 5. Extends the availability of a previous appropriation for the conservation partners legacy grant program by one year (to 2019).

Article 2: Parks and Trails Fund

- 1** **Expenditures; accountability.** Amends § 85.53, subd. 2. Requires an entity that comes to the legislature requesting an appropriation from the parks and trails fund to provide information on whether the program has been funded in the past (since 2006), and if the program was funded and how the project or program was funded (for example with legacy funds, private funds, state general fund appropriations, etc.).

Article 3: Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

- 1** **Expenditures; accountability.** Amends § 129D.17, subd. 2. Requires an entity that comes to the legislature requesting an appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund to provide information on whether the program has been funded in the past (since 2006), and if the program was funded and how the project or program was funded (for example with legacy funds, private funds, state general fund appropriations, etc.).
- 2** **Minnesota State Arts Board.** Amends Laws 2015, First special session ch. 2, art. 4, § 2, subd. 3. Modifies a law appropriating funds to the Minnesota State Arts Board to allow certain funds to be used for preservation and conservation of art and artifacts and require the Minnesota State Arts Board and regional arts councils to consider grants to organizations preserving and maintaining art and artifacts or providing education/training on preservation/conservation.