

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill includes the fiscal year 2016 recommendations from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) on the use of the environment and natural resources trust fund dollars.

Section

1 Appropriations. Technical.

2 Minnesota resources.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$46,324,000 from the environment and natural resources trust fund and \$59,000 from the Great Lakes Protection Account.

Subd. 2. Trust fund definition. Technical.

Subd. 3. Foundational natural resource data and information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resource data and information projects of \$12,932,000.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$3,065,000.

Subd. 5. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$1,004,000.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$6,071,000.

Section

Subd. 7. Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy. Provides a total appropriation for air quality, climate change, and renewable energy projects of \$3,268,000.

Subd. 8. Methods to protect, restore, and enhance land, water, and habitat. Provides a total appropriation for projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement methods of \$4,646,000.

Subd. 9. Land acquisition for habitat and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land acquisition projects of \$14,190,000.

Subd. 10. Administration and contract agreement reimbursement. Provides a total appropriation of \$1,207,000 for administrative expenses.

Subds. 11 to 17. Provide project requirements that apply to all recipients. The LCCMR recommends similar requirements each year, which include: specifying the availability of appropriations; data requirements; specific project requirements, including requiring ecological restoration and management plans, and requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term monitoring and enforcement plan; and providing carry forwards for previous appropriations.

- 3 **Duties.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 3. Technical.
- 4 **Public meetings.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 5. Technical.
- 5 **Peer review.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 6. Technical.
- 6 **Peer reviewers.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 5. Modifies the existing peer review process used by the LCCMR to remove the requirement that a “panel” be used.
- 7 **Conflict of interest.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 6. Technical.
- 8 **Technical advisory committees.** Amends § 116P.09, subd. 8. Modifies a requirement of the LCCMR to appoint technical advisory committees to eliminate the requirement and make it permissive (rather than mandatory).