

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill includes the fiscal year 2017 appropriations recommendations from the environment and natural resources trust fund (a constitutionally dedicated trust fund funded by proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery). The bill includes many of the recommendations approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR).

Section

1 Appropriations. Technical.

2 Minnesota resources.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$46,337,000 from the environment and natural resources trust fund.

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 \$11,158,000.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$8,349,000.

Subd. 5. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$2,812,000.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$5,860,000.

Section

Subd. 7. Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy. Provides a total appropriation for air quality, climate change, and renewable energy projects of \$2,290,000.

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 \$8,929,000.

Subd. 9. Land acquisition for habitat and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land acquisition projects of \$6,565,000.

Subd. 10. Emerging issues account. Provides \$164,000 to the emerging issues account.

Subd. 11. Administration and contract agreement reimbursement. Provides a total appropriation of \$210,000 for administrative expenses.

Subds. 12 to 19. Provides 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 **Membership.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 1. Requires cochairs of the LCCMR to rotate each meeting and requires house, senate, and citizen members to select their respective chairs.
- 4 **Duties.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 2. Requires the LCCMR to give priority to large-scale, on-the-ground projects and programs that provide tangible results.
- 5 **Legislative recommendations.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 4. Requires programs funded by the emerging issues account to not be projects currently being considered by the LCCMR unless they can stand on their own and not require additional funding in order to provide measurable outcomes (ex. a project could not be partially funded with the emerging issues account requiring additional funds in the legislative bill to complete).
- 6 **Public meetings.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 5. Requires meetings of the LCCMR, its committees or subcommittees, technical advisory committees, and peer reviewers to be open meetings according to the requirements of the state's open meeting law under chapter 13D (a similar provision applies to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC)).
- 7 **Donations.** Adds § 116P.19. Prohibits a recipient of environment and natural resources trust fund dollars used to purchase land from accepting a monetary donation or payment from the landowner that exceeds their documented expenses and provides exceptions.
- 8 **Easement monitoring and enforcement requirements.** Adds § 116P.20. Requires a recipient of money from the trust fund for easement monitoring and enforcement to only use the money on activities in an approved work plan and requires the funds to be kept in a fund dedicated for easement monitoring and enforcement and be annually reported on. States that money in the fund reverts to the state if the easement transfers to the state or the recipient fails to report as required or comply with the terms of the work plan.