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Overview

This bill includes fiscal year 2017 and 2018 appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund (a constitutionally dedicated trust fund funded by proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery). It includes a number of recommendations approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), a 17 member commission made up of five house members, five senate members, and seven citizen members.

Section

1 Appropriations. Technical.

2 Minnesota resources.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$8,428,000 in fiscal year 2017, and \$50,828,000 in fiscal year 2018 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 \$3,700,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$6,869,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$2,584,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Section

Subd. 5. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$2,817,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$2,700,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$2,021,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 7. Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy. Provides a total appropriation for air quality, climate change, and renewable energy projects of \$1,700,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 8. Methods to protect or restore land, water, and habitat. Provides a total appropriation for projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement methods of \$1,029,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$27,639,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 9. Land acquisition, habitat, and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land acquisition projects of \$999,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$5,858,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 10. Administration and contract agreement reimbursement. Provides a total appropriation of \$1,340,000 for administrative expenses.

Subds. 12 to 18. 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. Also allows previous appropriations set to expire to be extended.

- 3 No net gain; counties.** Adds § 15.0541. Allows a county located in whole or in part north of U.S. Highway 2 to file a no net gain of state lands policy with the DNR. Requires state agencies, excluding the Department of Transportation and Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, to sell an equal or greater number of acres of land with substantially equal value when acquiring land in a county with a no net gain policy filed under this section. Allows the lands sold to be sold for less than appraised value, but not less than 75 percent of appraised value.
- 4 Duties.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 2. Modifies work plan requirements of recipients of environment and natural resources trust fund appropriations to allow annual progress reports; current law requires semiannual progress reports.
- 5 Commissioner approval.** Adds § 116P.17, subd. 1. Exempts land acquisitions for the metropolitan regional parks system funded with money from the environment and natural resources trust fund from requirements that they receive written approval from the commissioner of natural resources prior to the acquisition.