

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill appropriates money from the clean water fund for various projects and programs based upon the recommendations of the Clean Water Council. The Clean Water Council is charged with making recommendations on the use of the money in the clean water fund (which was established by the “Legacy Amendment” passed by the voters in 2008).

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- 1 **Clean water fund appropriations.** Technical.
- 2 **Clean water.** Provides a total appropriation of \$107,083,000 from the clean water fund in fiscal year 2018, and \$113,431,000 in fiscal year 2019. Makes the funds available for two years or, when federal funds are involved, for the time period equal to the federal funding availability.
- 3 **Department of Agriculture.** Appropriates \$9,208,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$9,208,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the Department of Agriculture for various purposes, including money for:
 - monitoring pesticides and pesticide degradates in ground and surface waters;
 - increasing monitoring for nitrates and evaluate trends;
 - the agricultural best management loan program;
 - technical assistance, research and demonstration projects regarding best management practice implementation;
 - research to quantify and reduce agricultural contributions to impaired waters;
 - a research inventory database;
 - implementation of the agricultural water quality certification program;

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- a regional irrigation water quality specialist;
- a perennial and cover crop research program;
- pesticide testing in private wells with nitrates; and
- evaluation of markets for crops beneficial to water quality and soil health.

4 Public Facilities Authority. Appropriates \$8,125,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$10,125,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the Public Facilities Authority (PFA), including a total of \$18,000,000 for the total maximum daily load (TMDL) grant program, and a total of \$300,000 for grants and loans for small community wastewater treatment.

5 Pollution Control Agency. Appropriates \$27,358,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$27,357,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), including money for:

- completion of statewide surface water assessments;
- the development of watershed restoration and protection strategies (WRAPS) which include TMDL studies and TMDL implementation plans;
- groundwater assessment;
- a restoration project in the lower St. Louis River and Duluth harbor;
- TMDL research and database development;
- development of a multiagency watershed database reporting portal;
- national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) wastewater and storm water TMDL implementation;
- grants to counties for subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS);
- accelerated implementation of MS4 permit requirements;
- grants for sanitary sewer projects in Voyageurs National Park; and
- administration expenses of the Clean Water Council.

6 Department of Natural Resources. Appropriates \$11,345,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$11,345,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the DNR, including money for:

- stream flow monitoring;
- lake Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) assessments;
- assessing mercury contamination of fish;
- development of targeted, science-based WRAPS;
- water supply planning, aquifer protection, and monitoring activities;
- technical assistance to support local implementation of nonpoint source restoration and protection activities;
- applied research and tools;
- county geologic atlases;
- maintenance and updates to buffer maps and technical guidance;
- collection color infrared imagery for determining perennial cover;
- conservation easements on lands adjacent to waters for aquatic management areas (AMAs); and
- conservation easements in targeted areas to protect forests and shorelands.

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- 7 Board of Water and Soil Resources.** Appropriates \$43,776,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$48,142,000 in fiscal year 2019 to BWSR, including money for:
- pilot program to provide performance based grants to local units of government to implement projects identified as part of the One Watershed, One Plan, or other plans;
 - grants to local units of government for various water quality projects consistent with TMDL and WRAPS;
 - acceleration of implementation, including technical assistance;
 - state oversight and accountability of local implementation efforts;
 - grants to local units of government to ensure compliance with buffer and soil loss requirements;
 - acquisition and restoration of permanent conservation easements on riparian buffers;
 - permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas;
 - restoration audits;
 - technical assistance and grants for the conservation drainage program;
 - conservation easements under the conservation reserve enhancement program (CREP);
 - conservation easements on critical shoreland areas;
 - data collection and estimates of soil erosion; and
 - clean water legacy grants.

Requires the board to contract with the Conservation Corps Minnesota for \$500,000 each year under the programs funded in this section.

- 8 Department of Health.** Appropriates \$4,998,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$4,997,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the Department of Health, including money for:
- addressing public health concerns related to drinking water contaminants of emerging concern;
 - drinking water source protection;
 - cost-share assistance to public and private well owners;
 - development and distribution of groundwater restoration and protection strategies;
 - study of the occurrence and magnitude of contaminants in private wells;
 - evaluating and addressing risks from viruses in water supplies; and
 - development of public health policies and an action plan to address threats to safe drinking water.

- 9 Metropolitan Council.** Appropriates \$1,250,000 each year to the Metropolitan Council for:
- projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats; and
 - water demand reduction grant program.

- 10 University of Minnesota.** Appropriates \$1,008,000 in fiscal year 2018 and \$1,007,000 in fiscal year 2019 to the University of Minnesota for:
- developing county geologic atlases;
 - a storm water performance evaluation and technology transfer program; and
 - guidance documents and tools evaluating the clean water fund's return on investment.

Section

11 **Legislature.** Appropriates \$15,000 in fiscal year 2018 to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) for the Legacy Web site.