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This bill would establish a dedicated account in the remediation fund (water quality and sustainability account) for the money received by the state as a result of a lawsuit the state filed against the 3M Company accusing the company of causing natural resource damages by its manufacture, distribution, disposal and other environmental management of per- and poly-fluorinated chemicals (PFCs). Money in the account would be statutorily appropriated to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) and Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The bill would require the PCA and DNR to submit quarterly reports on the expenditures of the fund to the Legislative Water Commission and an annual report with the expenditures and spending plan to the legislature.

The PCA and DNR would be required to work with stakeholders to identify and recommend projects to be funded with money in the account, including representatives of the PCA, DNR, east metropolitan area municipalities and the 3M Company.

As part of the settlement, 3M has made a grant payment to the state in the amount of \$850 million (roughly \$720 million will be available after legal and other expenses). The money must be used “to enhance the quality, quantity and sustainability of the drinking water in the East Metropolitan Area.” If this goal is “reasonably achieved” the funds may be used to “restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, resource improvement, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the East Metropolitan Area and in downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.” If any funds remain, they may be used statewide on “water resources, habitat restoration, open space preservation, recreation improvements, and other sustainability projects.”