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Authors: Mahoney

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Analyst: Bob Eleff

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Overview

House File 3749 establishes a grant program in the Department of Agriculture to reduce the costs of processing waste from trees removed by a local government as a result of emerald ash borer infestation, and transporting the resulting biomass fuel to a district heating and cooling cogeneration facility to produce electricity that is sold to Xcel Energy.

Section

1 [216C.437] Local government emerald ash borer removal grant program.

Subd. 1. Establishment. Establishes a grant program in the Department of Agriculture.

Subd. 2. Eligibility. A nonprofit district heating and cooling system cogeneration facility located in St. Paul that generates electricity from biomass and that accepts wood waste from a local of unit of government in Xcel service territory in an area designated as quarantined with respect to transporting trees removed as a result of emerald ash borer infestation is eligible for a grant under this section.

Subd. 3. Eligible expenditures. Grants may be used by a recipient to process diseased trees and to transport biomass fuel processed from diseased trees to a storage location or to the cogeneration facility. Grants may also be used to pay the Department of Agriculture's administrative costs under this section.

Subd. 4. Expiration. This program expires the day after the expiration of the power purchase agreement between the cogeneration facility and Xcel Energy.

Section

- 2** **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$6,000,000 annually from the Renewable Development Account from fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2023 for the purposes of section 1. Unexpended funds remain available until spent.