

Subject Working Lands Pilot Program

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Overview

This bill would require the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to establish a working lands pilot program to increase the use of perennial and cover crops to improve water quality and other outcomes and appropriate money for the program.

Summary

Section	Description
1	<p>Working lands; pilot program for drinking water protection.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Goal. States that it is a goal of the state to develop a market-driven strategy using perennial and cover crops to enhance water quality, soil health, carbon storage, habitat, and the rural economy</p> <p>Subd. 2. Program. Requires BWSR to develop and implement a working lands pilot program in selected areas. Requires criteria to be used to select areas and landowners to participate in the program. Requires coordination with local governments, local watershed planning efforts, the University of Minnesota, and others. Requires outreach, flexible contract terms, and efforts to use federal funds. Requires the program to be developed with stakeholders and the commissioners of health, natural resources, agriculture, and the Pollution Control Agency and the University of Minnesota. Requires BWSR to submit to the legislature and Clean Water Council annual progress reports and a final report by June 30, 2024.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Appropriation. Appropriates \$8,500,000 from the general fund to BWSR to establish the program.</p>