

Subject Soil Health
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Date March 16, 2022

Overview

This bill establishes statewide soil health goals, requires the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to establish a soil health program, and appropriates money for the soil health program and a soil health action plan.

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Soil-health goals.
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Establishes soil-health goals for the state.

2	Soil health cost-share program.
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Establishes the soil health cost-share program.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines “board,” “local units of government,” and “soil health” for purposes of the program.

Subd. 2. Establishment. Requires BWSR to establish a cost-share program, consistent with provisions of an existing cost-share program, for the purposes of mitigating climate change impacts and improving water quality and related public benefits.

Subd. 3. Financial assistance. Allows BWSR to provide financial assistance to local units of government, private sector providers, and farmers for the costs of soil health and related water quality practices consistent with certain approved water management plans. Requires BWSR to establish costs eligible for financial assistance under the program. Allows BWSR to enter into agreements with local units of government receiving financial assistance. Requires priority to be given to multiyear contracts meeting certain conditions and to leveraging contributions from nonstate sources.

Subd. 4. Technical assistance. Allows BWSR to employ or contract with experts to work on program implementation. Requires BWSR to provide assistance to

Section **Description**

local units of government, review and assess practice standards, and evaluate the effectiveness of completed practices funded under the program.

Subd. 5. Federal aid availability. Requires BWSR to regularly complete an analysis of federal funds and programs available to supplement or complement local and state efforts under the program.

Subd. 6. Carbon market applicability. Allows BWSR and the commissioner of agriculture to cooperate with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, other federal and state agencies, and private sector organizations to align or incorporate soil health practices with carbon trading, mitigation, or offset markets.

3 Soil health; appropriation.

Appropriates \$17,000,000 to BWSR for the soil health cost share program in fiscal year 2023, and \$4,500,000 thereafter.

4 Statewide soil health action plan; appropriation.

Appropriates \$180,000 to BWSR for a soil health action plan that must be submitted to the legislature by January 15, 2023.



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