

Subject Drought Relief

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Summary

This bill would provide money from the general fund in fiscal year 2022 to address 2021 drought related impacts. Including:

- \$5,000,000 to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) for grants and other forms of financial assistance for livestock farmers and specialty crop producers impacted by the drought. Allows the MDA to give preference to producers located in counties that include areas designated as exceptional drought (D4) during 2021;
- \$5,000,000 transferred to the Rural Finance Authority Revolving Loan account with priority given to drought relief loans;
- \$300,000 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for costs associated with resolving DNR confirmed well interferences that occurred between May 1, 2021, and December 30, 2021;
- \$3,000,000 to the DNR for grants to municipal, township, and Tribal governments that operate public water supplies to increase water efficiency;
- \$4,500,000 to the DNR for grants to local and Tribal governments to remove and plant shade trees impacted by drought and provide communities with tree-watering equipment under the Minnesota releaf program; and
- \$5,550,000 to the DNR to replace drought-killed seedlings on DNR managed lands and to administer grants to Tribal, county, and private forestland owners to replace seedlings on their lands.

The bill would be effective the day following final enactment.