

Subject Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)

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Date March 21, 2023

## Overview

This bill establishes a grant program to respond to emerald ash borer (EAB) and appropriates money for the program. It also provides additional appropriations for EAB and tree planting purposes.

## Summary

Section	Description
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1	<b>Emerald ash borer response.</b>
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**Subd. 1. Purpose.** States the purpose for the program.

**Subd. 2. Establishment.** Requires the commissioner of natural resources to establish a program to provide grants to communities to assist with treating, removing, and replacing ash trees in response to the EAB epidemic and managing wood waste as well as identify existing biomass energy facilities that are critical for local and regional EAB response programs.

**Subd. 3. Eligible applicants.** Allows the commissioner to award grants under the program to local units of government and a Minnesota nonprofit corporation that owns a cogeneration facility serving a St. Paul district heating and cooling system.

**Subd. 4. Eligible expenditures.** States that local units of government are eligible for matching grants up to 50 percent of costs for managing, transporting, processing and disposing wood waste. A nonprofit corporation is eligible for grants of \$20 per ton of processed biomass fuel containing wood waste from ash trees processed in response to the EAB epidemic. Allows the commissioner to require the nonprofit to charge a fee per ton of ash tree wood waste.

**Subd. 5. Reporting.** Requires a nonprofit receiving a grant under the program to compile a quarterly report on the volume of wood used at the facility.

Section	Description
2	<p><b>Emerald ash borer response; appropriation.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$44,000,000 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in fiscal year 2024 for the program under section 1, including \$9,000,000 for grants to local units of government and \$35,000,000 for grants to a nonprofit corporation.</p>
3	<p><b>Emerald ash borer wood dehydrator; appropriation.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$4,000,000 from the general fund to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) for a grant for a biomass energy generation plant in Shakopee to purchase a wood dehydrator to facilitate disposal of EAB infested wood. Requires the PCA to submit a report to the legislature on the use of the money appropriated.</p>
4	<p><b>School tree planting grants; appropriation.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$1,000,000 to the DNR for grants to schools to plant trees on school grounds while providing hands-on learning opportunities for students.</p>
5	<p><b>Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board; appropriation.</b></p> <p>Appropriates \$1,000,000 to the DNR for a grant to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board to plant trees within its parks.</p>



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