

**Subject** Native Prairie Bank Program

**Authors** Rehm and Others

**Analyst** Janelle Taylor

**Date** February 15, 2024

### Overview

This bill makes a number of changes to the state’s native prairie bank program that are being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The program allows the DNR to purchase conservation easements to protect native prairie.

### Summary

Section	Description
1	<b>Definition.</b> Modifies the definition of “native prairie” for purposes of the native prairie bank program.
2	<b>Easement acquisition.</b> Allows native prairie bank easements to be placed on school trust lands. Requires the DNR to get advice from the school trust lands director prior to acquiring such easements.
3	<b>Payments.</b> Increases the payment rate for native prairie bank easements from 65 percent of the permanent marginal agricultural land payment rate established by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to up to ten percent more than the noncrop easement rate BWSR pays (payment rates vary by township). Allows the DNR to pay up to 65 percent of this rate for easements of a limited duration. Allows the DNR to acquire land in fee under the program if the landowner requests and allows the DNR to pay up to 25 percent more than BWSR’s noncrop easement payment rate for the acquisition. Requires the DNR to establish payment rates if BWSR does not establish noncrop easement payment rates and specifies the factors that must be considered when establishing the rates. Requires easements on school trust lands to be no less than 100 percent of the easement’s appraised value.



**MN HOUSE  
RESEARCH**

*Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.*

[www.house.mn.gov/hrd](http://www.house.mn.gov/hrd) | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155