

H.F. 3651

As amended by H3651A1

Subject 1854 Treaty Area

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Summary

As amended, this bill makes the general fund appropriations of \$3,000,000 in fiscal years 2024 and 2025 for additional payments to Bands under the 1854 Treaty Area settlement agreement ongoing. The appropriations were passed last session and were onetime. The bill would also clarify that the DNR has the authority to take actions necessary to carry out the state's duties arising from the 1854 Treaty Area settlement agreement as amended. The DNR was required to work with the signatories to update and amend the agreement as part of the appropriation language.

The 1854 Treaty was a treaty between the Chippewa of Lake Superior and the United States where the Chippewa ceded their land in northeastern Minnesota. In 1985, the Grand Portage Band sued the state asserting that the 1854 Treaty gives the Band the right to hunt and fish in the ceded territory without state regulation. The Fond du Lac and Bois Forte Bands later joined the lawsuit. In 1988, the state and the three Bands entered into an agreement to settle the dispute (Fond du Lac Band withdrew from the agreement the following year). As part of the agreement, the state is required to make annual payments to the Bands based upon a formula specified in the agreement.