

**Subject** Aid to local governments for emerald ash borer financial assistance

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## Overview

H.F. 5075 establishes an aid to local governments to reimburse their residents for costs incurred for treating or removing a tree that was infested by the emerald ash borer, and has been required to be removed.

The Department of Revenue (DOR) could distribute aid either through a formula-based allocation or a competitive grant program, but must prioritize distributing aid based on the rate of emerald ash borer infestations on residential properties, the ability of residents to pay for costs, and population.

Cities would be required to use the funds to reimburse homeowners with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline (\$62,400 for a family of four in 2024).

## Summary

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1	<b>Aid to cities for emerald ash borer financial assistance.</b>
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**Subd. 1. Definitions.** Defines “eligible costs” as costs incurred in 2020 or later for removing a tree that is infested by emerald ash borer and was required by state law or municipal ordinance to be removed.

Defines “eligible homeowner” as a homeowner who experienced eligible costs related to a tree on the homeowner’s residential homestead property.

Defines “eligible local government” as a statutory or home rule charter city, a town of at least 10,000, or a Tribal government.

**Subd. 2. Aid program established; payment.** Required DOR to distribute aid to eligible local governments. Requires aid payments to be certified by January 31, 2024, and paid by February 15, 2024.

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**Subd. 3. Amount of aid.** Requires DOR to establish a process to allocate aid payments, either through a formula distribution or merit-based competitive grant program. The program or formula must prioritize aid distributions based on the rate of emerald ash borer infestation on residential properties, the ability of residents to pay for tree removal and treatment, and population. Requires DOR to consult with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of Natural Resources.

**Subd. 4. Eligible uses.** Allows eligible local governments receiving aid to use the funds to reimburse homeowners with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline for tree removal or treatment.

**Subd. 5. Appropriation.** Appropriates \$7,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 for aid payments.



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