

Subject Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

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Overview

This bill includes the recommendations of the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the 2023 session. It includes fiscal year 2024 appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund (ENRTF), a constitutionally dedicated trust fund funded by proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery, as well as recommendations for new requirements for capital projects funded by the ENRTF.

The LCCMR is made up of 17 members with ten legislators and seven citizens (five legislative members from each body, five citizen members appointed by the Governor, one citizen member appointed by the House of Representatives, and one citizen member appointed by the Senate). The LCCMR is tasked with making recommendations on how money in the ENRTF is spent.

Article 1: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations.

This article contains fiscal year 2024 appropriations from the ENRTF as recommended by the LCCMR. It also includes a fiscal year 2024 appropriation from the Great Lakes protection account. Money in the Great Lakes protect account may only be used for protecting water quality in the Great Lakes. The LCCMR is tasked with making recommendations on how money in the Great Lakes protection account is spent.

Section Article 1: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations.

- 1 Appropriations.**
Technical.

Section Article 1: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations.

2 Minnesota resources.

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$79,644,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the ENRTF and \$189,000 in fiscal year 2024 from the great lakes protection account.

Subd. 2. Definitions. Technical.

Subd. 3. Foundational natural resource data and information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resource data and information projects of \$8,219,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$8,328,000 in fiscal year 2024, including \$189,000 from the great lakes protection account.

Subd. 5. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$3,905,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$5,104,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 7. Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy. Provides a total appropriation for air quality and renewable energy projects of \$3,913,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 8. Methods to protect or restore land, water, and habitat. Provides a total appropriation for projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement methods of \$15,997,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 9. Land acquisition, habitat, and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land acquisition projects of \$31,241,000 in fiscal year 2024.

Subd. 10. Administration and contract agreement reimbursement. Provides a total appropriation of \$3,126,000 in fiscal year 2024 for certain administrative expenses and an emerging issues account.

Subds. 11 to 18. Provides project requirements that apply to all recipients. The LCCMR recommends similar requirements each year, which include: specifying the availability of appropriations; data requirements; specific project requirements, including requiring ecological restoration and management plans; and requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term monitoring and enforcement plan. Extends several previous appropriations set to expire.

Section Article 1: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations.

3 Environmental education.

Modifies a previous appropriation for environmental learning centers to remove a minimum threshold on the number of students that must be provided with scholarships.

4 Habitat and recreation.

Modifies a previous appropriation to remove language indicating a Mesabi Trail project would extend “to” the city of Tower so that it would instead state that it would extend “toward” the city of Tower.

Article 2: Capital Projects

This article contains policy recommendations developed by the LCCMR concerning capital projects funded by the ENRTF. A law passed in 2022 required the LCCMR to “consider whether statutorily requiring additional information to accompany proposals for capital projects would help the commission better evaluate those proposals” and to submit any recommendations to the legislature by October 15, 2022.

Section Article 2: Capital Projects

1 Capital construction and land acquisition; restrictions.

Restricts a recipient of an appropriation from the ENRTF who uses the appropriation for a capital construction project with a total cost of \$10,000 or more from altering the use of the capital asset or conveying any interest in the capital asset without the prior review and approval of the LCCMR. Requires the LCCMR to establish procedures for reviewing requests and provides certain criteria for doing so. Also requires recipients to record a notice of funding restriction with the appropriate local government and specifies what the notice must contain.

2 Real property interests; report.

Requires a recipient of an appropriation from the ENRTF who uses the appropriation for a capital construction project with a total cost of \$10,000 or more to submit an annual report to the LCCMR on the status of the real property for a period of 25 years.

3 Additional capital construction project requirements.

Subd. 1. Full funding. Specifies the commitment of other sources of funding required when a project or project phase has not received full funding from the ENRTF.

Section Article 2: Capital Projects

Subd. 2. Match. Requires a recipient of money from the ENRTF for a capital construction project to provide at least 50 percent in match, either cash or in-kind, from nontrust fund sources.

Subd. 3. Sustainable building guidelines. States that certain sustainable building guidelines apply to new buildings and major renovations funded by the ENRTF.

Subd. 4. Applicability. Exempts capital construction projects costing less than \$10,000 and land acquisition projects that are not for the purpose of capital construction from the requirements in subdivisions 1, 2, and 3.

Subd. 5. Other capital construction statutes. States that a number of existing capital project requirements apply to recipients of money appropriated from the ENRTF.

4 Effective date.

States that the article is effective July 1, 2025, and applies to money appropriated on or after that date.



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