

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

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**Authors:** Cornish and others

**Subject:** State Trust Fund Lands; identifying, locating and leasing aggregate

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### Overview

The school trust lands were granted to Minnesota by the federal government and were given for the "benefit of the schools." Much of the land (the 16<sup>th</sup> and 36<sup>th</sup> townships) was sold by the state in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The proceeds from those sales were placed in the permanent school fund. The state has roughly 2.5 million acres of school trust land remaining which is managed by the Department of Natural Resources. The proceeds of managed lands (timber sales, lakeshore leases and mineral rights, along with interest earnings from the permanent school fund) are annually appropriated to Minnesota's schools. These appropriations total about \$20 million per year.

This bill appropriates \$50,000 on an annual basis from the forest suspense account to the division of land and minerals in the Department of Natural Resources to identify, evaluate and lease construction aggregates (sand and gravel) located on state trust fund lands. In future years, as the proceeds from the sale of the aggregate are received, the money will be added to the permanent school fund.

### Section

- 1 Appropriation to evaluate construction aggregate potential.** Appropriates \$50,000 from the money accruing in the forest suspense account to the division of lands and minerals in the Department of Natural Resources for activities designed to identify, evaluate and lease construction aggregates.