

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Stang and others

Subject: Sauk River Watershed District; increased levy authority

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Overview

Authorizes an increased property tax levy for the Sauk River Watershed. Effective without local approval, for taxes payable in 2005 and thereafter.

Section

1 **Sauk River Watershed District.** Authorizes the Sauk River Watershed to levy an amount up to 0.01 percent of its taxable market value for its administrative fund. This is about \$465,000 for the current year. The bill sets no maximum dollar amount, but rather sets the limit at 0.01 percent of its taxable market value.

Minnesota Statutes, section 103D.905, subdivision 3, (which is the general levy provisions for all watersheds) provides that a watershed may annually levy an amount equal to 0.048 percent of its taxable market value, or \$250,000, whichever is less.

The Sauk River watershed is a large watershed that includes parts of Stearns (including St. Cloud), Todd, Douglas and Meeker counties. Due to its size (i.e., tax base) even with a cap of 0.01 percent (the current cap is 0.048 percent) the Sauk River watershed would be able to levy \$465,000 for its general fund.

Note: the name of the fund in section 103D.905 was changed from "administrative" to "general." The bill should probably be amended to refer to "general" fund, instead of "administrative fund"-page 1, line 9.

Section

Effective, without local approval, for taxes levied in 2004, payable 2005 and thereafter.