

# HOUSE RESEARCH

## Bill Summary

**FILE NUMBER:** H.F. 1467

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**Version:** Second engrossment

**Authors:** Hackbarth and others

**Subject:** Creating a Conservation Heritage Council

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### Overview

This bill would change the way decisions are made on expenditures in the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund from decision-making by the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources and the full legislature to a 11-member citizen group with scientific and policy experience. It would abolish the LCMR and their citizen advisory committee and create a new Minnesota Conservation Heritage Council (council).

#### Section

- 1** Definition.
- 2** Removes a comparison of traditional funding for the environment with funding from the environment and natural resources trust fund to be included in a legislative report.
- 3** Adds an annual audit by the legislative auditor for the council's strategic plan to spend the trust fund and other money authorized.
- 4** Creates the Minnesota Conservation Heritage Council of 11 members appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate. States a term of six years and board members must demonstrate experience and expertise in the science or policy of environment and natural resources. Sets the conditions for chair, who shall be the executive officer and quorum, and the adoption of a strategic plan for expenditures.

**Subd. 5.** States that beginning July 1, 2007, on an annual basis the amount of the environment and natural resources trust fund that may be constitutionally appropriated is under the council for appropriation expenditure recommendations to the governor, who must approve or disapprove.

**Section**

- 5** Creates a technical advisory committee, composed of experts, to provide independent advice on priority identification and funding recommendations.
- 6** Replaces the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) duties for expending trust fund dollars with the new citizen council.
- 7** Requires a work plan to the council for an entity receiving trust fund money.
- 8** Requires the council to adopt a ten-year strategic plan for trust fund expenditures to be made on an annual basis.
- 9** Changes some of the duties of the peer review panel process that now assists the LCMR, but will continue to serve the new council.
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- 11** Creates additional criteria to identify potential conflicts of interest for a council board member, peer review panelist or staff person.
- 12** Technical.
- 13** Technical.
- 14** Technical.
- 15** Technical.
- 16** Mandates that the LCMR staff shall assist the new council, and citizen advisory committee expenses shall be used for council administration.
- 17** Requires the Governor to do initial appointments for council board members by set staggered terms.
- 18** Repeals existing statutes on the LCMR, the citizens advisory committee, and Minnesota Statutes, sections 116P.061, 116P.07, 116P.08, and 116P.09.
- 19** Makes the bill effective the day following final enactment.