

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Authors: Ozment and others

Subject: Increase sales tax percent dedication to natural resources and arts

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Section

1 **Constitutional Amendment.** Proposes starting July 1, 2007, for 25 years, a one-fourth of one percent increase sales tax dedication for natural resources and public arts purposes. Revenue would be dedicated as follows: (1) 34 percent for improvement, enhancement or protection for wildlife, habitat, and related tourism; (2) 22 percent for parks, trails and zoos; (3) 22 percent for protection and restoration of surface and groundwater; and (4) 22 percent for arts, humanities, history, museums and public broadcasting.

Creates funds for the above four purposes and states that the revenue must supplement, not substitute, the traditional sources of funding.

2 **Voter submission.** Submits the proposed question to the voters in 2006 general election.

3 **Public official.** Amends the statutory definition to include a member of a new Heritage Enhancement Council.

4 **Parks and Trails Fund.** States that revenue in this new fund may be spent only on state and regional parks, trails and zoos, with specific percentage amounts for each.

5 **Heritage Enhancement Fund.** States that 97 percent of money in this new fund must be spent on wildlife, habitat, and tourism related projects.

Subd. 2. Heritage Enhancement Council. Creates a Heritage Enhancement Council of 11 members, with two members each from the senate and house, two citizens each appointed by the senate and house, and three citizens appointed by the governor, with all citizens representing state wildlife interests.

Legislative members serve as nonvoting members, and all members serve two years.

Section

Requires the council, along with wildlife groups, to develop a biennial budget plan for fund expenditures, which the governor must include in his or her biennial budget. Stresses the need for maximum public involvement in the council's deliberations.

- 6** **Clean Water Fund.** States that money in this new fund may only be spent on assessing, protecting and improving the quality of water resources, and related assistance to individuals and groups for water quality improvement projects.

Subd. 3. Clean Water Council; membership; appointment. Creates a Clean Water Council of 21 members, with four state agency commissioners with water related duties, one legislator each from the house and senate, appointed by their respective bodies, and 15 citizen members representing various interests (similar to the clean water legacy bill) and appointed by the governor, with four year terms.

Requires the council to recommend allocation of expenditures from the new fund, with reporting to the legislature. Stresses the need for maximum public involvement in its deliberations.

- 7** **Public Arts Fund.** Allocates certain percentages in this new fund to State Arts Board (43%), Historical Society (23%), Science Museum (4%), Humanities Commission (3.5%), Film Board (2.5%), Minnesota and Duluth Children's Museums (1%), and public broadcasting (23%).

- 8** **Sales tax.** Adds the new one-fourth percent to existing sales tax.

- 9** **Technical.** Excludes dedicated one-fourth percent sales tax under this bill from going to the general fund.

- 10** **Technical.**