

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Contracting for Conservation and Maintenance Services on DNR Lands

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Overview

This bill would remove certain contract restrictions on the state for purposes of contracting for conservation and maintenance services on lands administered by the Department of Natural (DNR), and add the development of cost-effective land management strategies to the department's mission.

- 1** **Procedures for service contracts.** Amends § 16C.09. Allows the state to contract for conservation and maintenance services on lands administered by DNR even if there are state employees available to do the work. Currently, state entities can only contract for services if there is no employee available to do the work (with a few exceptions). Employees are considered available if they are already doing the work or are on layoff status in classes that can do the work.
- 2** **Contracted services.** Amends § 43A.047. Allows the state to contract for conservation and maintenance services on lands administered by the DNR without demonstrating that they cannot use available staff. Exempts contracts for conservation and maintenance services on lands administered by the DNR from requirements of agencies to reduce spending on contracts before laying off permanent employees.
- 3** **Mission; efficiency.** Amends § 84.027, subdivision 14. Modifies the DNR's mission, related to efficiencies, by adding that the commissioner shall develop cost-effective land management strategies that use public and private partnerships while maintaining sound natural resource conservation and management principles.