

House Research Act Summary

CHAPTER: 1

SESSION: 2013 First Special Session

TOPIC: Disaster Relief

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Overview

In July, Governor Dayton requested and President Obama declared a major disaster for damage caused by the severe storms, straight-line winds, and flooding in late June of this year.

This act appropriates state money to match federal disaster assistance for eligible public entities in the following counties -- Benton, Big Stone, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, McLeod, Morrison, Pope, Sibley, Stearns, Stevens, Swift, Traverse, and Wilkin. The act funds the \$4.5 million appropriation by cancelling an equivalent amount of unspent 2012 First Special Session appropriations for disaster relief in northeastern and north central Minnesota.

The act also cancels and re-appropriates money from a 2013 Regular Session disaster relief appropriation to Cottonwood, Jackson, Murray, Nobles, and Rock counties in order to provide disaster recovery grants directly to Nobles and Rock counties and the city of Worthington in Nobles County.

Section

- 1 Disaster relief appropriation.** Appropriates \$4.5 million from the general fund to the Department of Public Safety for aid to affected public entities. This amount also serves as the 25 percent match for federal disaster assistance. Funds are available for disaster recovery work only in the counties included in the presidential declaration (see Overview above for a list of counties).

Section

- 2** **Reduction of previous appropriations.** Reduces multiple 2012 disaster-relief appropriations by a total of \$4.5 million to pay for the new spending in section 1, as follows:
- \$800,000 from the 2012 First Special Session appropriation to the Department of Public Safety to match federal aid for storm and flood damage in the Duluth area;
 - \$1,700,000 from the 2012 First Special Session appropriation to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for Minnesota Investment Fund grants or loans to organizations directly and adversely affected by storm or flood damage in the Duluth area; and
 - \$2,000,000 from the 2012 First Special Session appropriation to the Department of Public Safety for assistance to those impacted by windstorm damage in Beltrami, Clearwater, Hubbard, Itasca, Koochiching, St. Louis, and Cass Counties, as well as the Leech Lake and Bois Forte bands of Ojibwe.
- 3** **Southwest Minnesota Winter Storm Aid.** Appropriates \$219,141 from the general fund to the Department of Employment and Economic Development for specific grant amounts to Nobles County, Rock County, and the city of Worthington for the cost of debris clearance and other disaster costs resulting from the severe winter storm in April of this year. Reduces a 2013 Regular Session appropriation for similar purposes by an equal amount.
- 4** **Effective date.** All sections are effective September 10, 2013.