

Chapter: 96

Session: 2017 Regular Session

Topic: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Appropriations

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Overview

This act includes fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019 appropriations from the environment and natural resources trust fund (a constitutionally dedicated trust fund funded by proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery). It includes a number of recommendations approved by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), a 17-member commission made up of five house members, five senate members, and seven citizen members.

Section

- 1 **Appropriations.** Technical.
- 2 **Minnesota resources.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$8,428,000 in fiscal year 2017, \$50,733,000 in fiscal year 2018, and \$5,089,00 in fiscal year 2019 from the environment and natural resources trust fund.

Subd. 2. Trust fund definition. Technical.

Subd. 3. Foundational natural resource data and information. Provides a total appropriation for natural resource data and information projects of \$2,000,000 in fiscal year 2017, \$7,872,000 in fiscal year 2018, and \$89,000 in fiscal year 2019.

Subd. 4. Water resources. Provides a total appropriation for water resources projects of \$3,175,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 5. Environmental education. Provides a total appropriation for environmental education projects of \$2,988,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 6. Aquatic and terrestrial invasive species. Provides a total appropriation for invasive species projects of \$2,700,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$2,021,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Section

Subd. 7. Air quality, climate change, and renewable energy. Provides a total appropriation for air quality, climate change, and renewable energy projects of \$3,250,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 8. Methods to protect or restore land, water, and habitat. Provides a total appropriation for projects for protection, restoration, and enhancement methods of \$2,729,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$16,554,000 in fiscal year 2018, and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2019.

Subd. 9. Land acquisition, habitat, and recreation. Provides a total appropriation for land acquisition projects of \$999,000 in fiscal year 2017 and \$13,533,000 in fiscal year 2018.

Subd. 10. Administration and contract agreement reimbursement. Provides a total appropriation of \$1,340,000 for administrative expenses.

Subds. 12 to 18. Provides project requirements that apply to all recipients. The LCCMR recommends similar requirements each year, which include: specifying the availability of appropriations; data requirements; specific project requirements, including requiring ecological restoration and management plans, and requiring easements to be permanent and have a long-term monitoring and enforcement plan. Also allows previous appropriations set to expire to be extended.

Subd. 19. Fiscal year 2019 recommendations. Requires the LCCMR to consider recommending loans from the corpus of the environment and natural resources trust fund to cities and towns with populations less than 5,000 for water system improvements as provided in the constitution.

- 3 Duties.** Amends § 116P.05, subd. 2. Modifies work plan requirements of recipients of environment and natural resources trust fund appropriations to allow annual progress reports; current law requires semiannual progress reports.
- 4 Expenditures.** Amends § 116P.08, subd. 1. Requires the LCCMR to give priority to recommending funding for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program and projects/programs that preserve or enhance fish, wildlife, land, air, water, and other natural resources that might otherwise be substantially impaired or destroyed.
- 5 Commissioner approval.** Adds § 116P.17, subd. 1. Exempts land acquisitions for the metropolitan regional parks system funded with money from the environment and natural resources trust fund from requirements that they receive written approval from the commissioner of natural resources prior to the acquisition.
- 6 Effective date.** States that sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.