1 Appropriations. Appropriates $5 million from bond proceeds for easements with willing landowners to establish shoreland buffers on rivers and lakes. Creates a pilot program in five counties chosen by the Board of Water and Soil Resources, and two counties must be in the metropolitan area.

2 Grants and easements. Requires soil and water conservation districts in each participating county to accept grant applications and provide grants for projects that protect shoreland areas.

3 Process.

   Subd. 1. Requires a working group of citizens to assist each soil and water conservation district in criteria development for awarding grants.

   Subd. 2. Provides for easement conditions, including a duration of at least 20 years. Requires native vegetation to be used in establishing shoreland buffers. Payment rates for the easement would be determined by the local soil and water conservation district.

   Subd. 3. Requires board coordination and cooperation with other government shoreland protection programs. Requires an evaluation report on the program by the board to the legislature by January 15, 2002.

4 Bond sale. Provides for the bond sale of $5 million for the purposes of this bill.