

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2973

DATE: February 18, 2002

Version: The delete everything amendment

Authors: Holsten

Subject: Appropriations and reductions for environmental and natural resources

Analyst: John Helland, 651-296-5039 Mike Bull, 651-296-8961

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd.

Overview

This bill provides the appropriations and reductions for those agencies and departments that have environmental, natural resources and agricultural responsibilities.

Section

1 Environmental and natural resources; appropriations and reductions. Specifies appropriations and reductions in state appropriations for environmental and natural resources purposes.

2 Pollution control agency.

Subd. 1. Total. Reduces the appropriation to the PCA for the current biennium by \$90,000 in 2002 and \$4,216,800 in 2003.

Subd. 2. Water. Specifies that the appropriation for programs for the protection of the waters is increased by \$950,000 in 2002 and is reduced by \$2,549,000 in 2003. Change items include:

\$500,000 in 2003 is reduced from the appropriation for the county administration of the feedlot permit program;

\$205,000 in 2003 is reduced from the general fund appropriation for the individual sewage treatment system (ISTS) grant program, and replaced with an equal appropriation from the solid waste fund; and

\$300,000 in 2003 is reduced from the general fund appropriation for a grant to the metropolitan council for water monitoring, and is replaced by an equal appropriation from the environmental fund.

In addition, \$200,000 in 2003 is appropriated from the solid waste fund for the water quality permitting program. The balance of the reductions in this program are to be made up through increases in water quality permitting fees under section 20.

Subd. 3. Land. Reduces the 2002 appropriation for programs for the protection of the land by

\$326,000, and increases the 2003 appropriation by \$389,000.

Reduces the general fund appropriation by \$1,039,000 in 2002 and \$1,041,000 in 2003, and appropriates \$867,000 in 2002 and \$1,503,000 in 2003 from the solid waste fund for these purposes.

Subd. 4. Integrated environmental programs. Reduces the 2002 appropriation for programs for integrated environmental programs by \$375,000, and the 2003 appropriation by \$1,644,000. Transfers \$1,576,000 in 2003 from the solid waste fund to the general fund.

Subd. 5. Administrative support. Reduces the appropriation for administrative support by \$145,000 in 2002 and \$319,000 in 2003.

Subd. 6. Cancellations. Cancels \$140,000 in fiscal year 2001 for back pay under the federal Fair Labor Standards Act to the solid waste fund by June 30, 2002.

3 **Office of environmental assistance.** Reduces the appropriation to the OEA by \$2,034,000 in 2002 and \$2,147,000 in 2003. Of this amount, \$1,400,000 in 2002 and \$1,500,000 in 2003 is taken from appropriation for SCORE block grants to counties.

Appropriates \$1,500,000 in each year from the solid waste fund for processing payments to counties under section 115A.545. Sections 16, 17 and 18 expand the eligibility for processing payments, and this appropriation pays for that expansion.

4 **Zoological board.** Reduces the appropriation to the Zoo Board by \$372,000 in 2002 and \$383,000 in 2003.

5 **Department of natural resources.**

Subd. 1. Total. Reduces the agency's appropriation by \$1,756,700 in 2002 and \$8,491,000 in 2003.

Subd. 2. Land and mineral resources management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for land and mineral resources management by \$81,000 in 2002 and \$356,000 in 2003. Of this reduction:

\$58,000 in 2002 and \$62,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for iron ore cooperative research;

\$10,000 in 2002 and \$74,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for minerals diversification;

\$10,000 in 2002 and \$20,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for minerals cooperative environmental research; and

\$200,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for taconite mining grants.

Subd. 3. Water resources management. Reduces the appropriation for water resources management by \$563,000 in 2003.

Subd. 4. Forest management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for forest management by \$358,000 in 2002 and \$1,409,000 in 2003. This reduction includes specific reductions of:

\$736,000 in 2003 from the appropriation for programs to regenerate and protect Minnesota's white pine;

\$50,000 in 2003 from the appropriation to the FORIST timber management information system and from programs to increase forest management; and

\$200,000 in 2003 from the forest resources council's appropriation to implement the Sustainable Forest Resources Act (section 8, subdivision 3 restores \$129,000 from the future resources fund).

Prohibits the agency from making any expenditures for the "focus on community forests" program.

Subd. 5. Parks and recreation management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for parks and recreation management by \$79,000 in 2002 and \$292,300 in 2003. This reduction includes specific reductions of:

- \$25,300 in 2003 from the appropriation for state forest campground operations;
- \$600,000 in 2003 from the appropriation for operating costs of the Red River state recreation area (section 8, subdivision 3 restores \$200,000 in 2003 from the future resources fund);
- \$200,000 in 2002 and \$200,000 in 2003 from the appropriation for operating costs of the Big Bog state recreation area;
- \$995,000 in 2003 from the appropriation for acquisition of in-holdings for state parks and recreation areas.

This bill also appropriates:

- \$35,000 in 2004 and \$35,000 in 2005 for a grant to Taylors Falls for fire and rescue operations in support of Interstate park (section 9 provides \$25,000 for this purpose in 2003 from the future resources fund); and
- \$200,000 in 2002 and \$1,795,000 in 2004 for a one-time appropriation for state park operations.

Subd. 6. Trails and waterway management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for trails and waterway management by \$723,700 in 2002 and \$823,000 in 2003. Of this reduction, \$88,700 in 2002 is from the appropriation for cross-country ski operations.

This bill also appropriates \$1,000,000 in each year from the snowmobile trails and enforcement account for the grants in aid trail system. Provides that up to \$200,000 in each year may be for grants to county sheriffs for snowmobile enforcement.

Subd. 7. Fish management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for fish management by \$274,000 in 2002 and \$134,000 in 2003, reducing those amounts from the appropriation for the reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program.

Subd. 8. Wildlife management. Reduces the appropriation for programs for wildlife management by \$225,000 in 2002 and \$993,000 in 2003.

\$305,000 in 2003 is reduced from the general fund appropriation for wolf management, and re-appropriated to RIM.

Prohibits the agency from making any expenditures to publicize the critical habitat license plate match program.

Subd. 9. Ecological services. Reduces the appropriation for programs for ecological services by \$92,000 in 2002 and \$12,000 in 2003. This bill takes \$92,000 in 2002 from the appropriation for RIM.

This bill also prohibits the department from making any expenditures to publicize the tax donation checkoff to the nongame wildlife program.

Subd. 10. Enforcement. Reduces the appropriation for enforcement programs, by \$557,000 in 2002 and \$730,000 in 2003. Of this reduction, \$315,000 in each year is reduced from the appropriation from the natural resources fund for grants to local law enforcement for snowmobile enforcement (see subdivision 6 -- restores up to \$200,000 in each year from the snowmobile trails and enforcement account).

Subd. 11. Operations support. Reduces the appropriation for programs for operations support by \$814,000 in 2002 and \$4,824,000 in 2003. Of this reduction:

- \$502,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for asset preservation;

\$500,000 in 2002 and \$2,104,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for the operations of youth programs; and

\$491,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation from the natural resources fund for youth program operations.

This bill also prohibits the agency from making expenditures for the "Becoming an Outdoors Woman" program.

Subd. 12. Cancellations to the general fund. Cancels \$1,403,400 to the general fund unexpended funds from amounts appropriated in 1998, including:

\$60,600 for office facility consolidation;

\$31,400 for state park building rehabilitation;

\$100,000 for state park building development;

\$38,900 for state park betterment;

\$428,000 for RIM critical habitat;

\$72,200 for RIM fish hatchery rehabilitation;

\$337,600 for RIM wildlife habitat improvements;

\$145,000 for metro greenways;

\$100,400 for accelerated wildlife habitat management; and

\$103,600 for dam repair removal.

6 **Board of water and soil resources.** Reduces the appropriation to the Board of water and soil resources by \$2,926,000 in 2003. Of this reduction:

\$977,200 in 2003 from the appropriation for natural resources block grants to local governments;

\$49,000 in 2003 is from the appropriation for flood plain management grants to watershed districts and other local units of government in the southern Minnesota river basin; and

\$1,300,000 in 2003 from the appropriation for grants to soil and water conservation districts for cost-sharing contracts for erosion control and water quality management.

7 **Science museum of Minnesota.** Reduces the appropriation for the science museum by \$65,000 in 2003.

8 **Minnesota resources.**

Subd. 1. Total appropriation. Appropriates a total of \$228,000 in 2002, and \$1,488,000 in 2003.

Subd. 2. Environment and natural resources trust fund. Appropriates the following amounts from the environment and natural resources trust fund:

\$228,000 in 2002 and \$27,000 in 2003 to the University of Minnesota to complete production of a film series on the history of Minnesota's natural landscapes;

\$62,000 in 2003 is to reimburse the LCMR for expenses and anticipated costs of the citizens advisory committee; and

\$138,000 in 2003 is to the commissioner of natural resources for RIM programs of game and fish, critical habitat and wetlands.

Subd. 3. Future resources fund. Appropriates the following amounts in 2003 from the future resources fund to the commissioner of natural resources:

\$200,000 for operating costs of the Red River state recreation area;

\$300,000 for state park operations and maintenance;

\$300,000 for a grant to the metropolitan council for grants to metropolitan regional parks;

\$62,000 for RIM;

\$67,000 for a shooting range coordinator;

\$44,000 for lake ecosystems monitoring;

\$129,000 for the activities of the forest resources council;

\$134,000 for fisheries operations; and

\$25,000 for a grant to Taylor's Falls for fire and rescue operations at Interstate park.

9 **Education awards.** Allows payments for youth conservation corps education awards to continue until June 30, 2009.

10 **Technical provision.**

11 **Aquatic plant grants.** Authorizes the commissioner to make grants for aquatic plant restoration projects, research and propagation.

12 **Lake Bemidji State Park.** Allows DNR employees to enter Lake Bemidji State Park without a state park permit.

13 **Taconite mining grants.** Reduces the appropriation in 2003 and thereafter by \$100,000 annually.

14 **Federal aid disposition.** Pertains to the deposition of certain federal aid payments.

15 **Federal law compliance; restriction on license revenue.** Requires the DNR to comply with federal wildlife laws. Requires the money from hunting and angling licenses to be used only for game and fish activities.

16 **Processing payments; definitions.** Provides a definition for the term "processing facility." Also, specifies that the term "county" includes a consortium of counties operating under a solid waste management joint powers agreement.

17 **Processing payments; eligibility.** Amends the current processing payment statute to make several counties eligible for processing payments. To be eligible under this amended language, a county must not qualify under the previous language and must have constructed a processing facility.

18 **Processing payments; WLSSD.** Specifies that sanitary districts are eligible to receive processing payments. Sections 16, 17 and 18 are effective retroactively to the date the original processing payment statute was passed.

19 **Sam Solon safe harbor.** Renames McQuade safe harbor as the Sam Solon safe harbor.

20 **Water quality permit fees.** Directs the pollution control agency to increase fees for water quality permits, effective July 1, 2002.

21 **Repealers.**

Minnesota Statutes, section 1.31: The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Area Compact.

Minnesota Statutes, section 84.0887, subdivisions 1-7 and 9: The youth corps programs of the Department of Natural Resources.

Minnesota Statutes, section 84.98, subdivisions 1-8: Minnesota Conservation Corps duties and responsibilities.

Minnesota Statutes, section 84.99: Youth Conservation Corps work crews.

Minnesota Statutes, section 84B.11: Citizens Council on Voyageurs National Park.

Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.3369, subdivisions 7-8: The Board of Water and Soil Resources rules and priorities for grant requests for the local water resources protection and

management program.

Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.461: BOWSR groundwater education activities coordination with local units of government and a report to the legislature.

Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.2373: DNR and BOWSR annual wetland and public waters wetland report to the legislature.

Minnesota Rules 8405.100-8405.0230: BOWSR local water protection and management grants program that is repealed above in Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.3369, subdivisions 7-8.

22

Effective date. Specifies that, except as otherwise specified, this act is effective the day following final enactment.