

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill establishes an Agriculture Research, Education, Extension, and Technology Transfer Board to award general fund grants that most efficiently achieve long-term agricultural productivity increases through improved infrastructure, vision, and accountability. The board would be comprised of agricultural and forest-product interests, the University of Minnesota, and the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

The board would issue approximately \$18.7 million in grants each year, with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture allowed to use a portion of the appropriation each year for the agency's direct costs to act as fiscal agent and to provide administrative services to the board. A portion of grant funding each year would be dedicated to agricultural education and rapid response to plant and animal diseases and pests.