

Subject DNR Lands Bill

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## Overview

This bill contains a number of provisions being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) that pertain to the administration of state lands. The bill also includes provisions providing additional authorities to St. Louis County in managing its tax-forfeited lands originally proposed in H.F. 569, a provision allowing the commissioner of transportation to convey land to a private party in Stearns County originally proposed in H.F. 122, and a provision allowing Itasca County to sell by private sale certain tax-forfeited property.

## Summary

| Section | Description  |
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| 1       | <p><b>Establishing boundary lines relating to certain state land holdings.</b></p> <p>Requires the DNR to publish a notice of conveyance of state lands to resolve boundary line issues in the State Register at least 30 days before the conveyance. Current law requires the notice to be made between 15 and 30 days before the conveyance.</p>   |
| 2       | <p><b>Land valuation required.</b></p> <p>Requires the DNR to have certain state lands offered for sale appraised prior to offering them if their estimated market value exceeds \$100,000. Current law requires this when the estimated market value exceeds \$50,000.</p>  |
| 3       | <p><b>Notice to agencies; determination of surplus.</b></p> <p>Modifies a requirement that the DNR send written notice of surplus lands to all state departments, agencies, and the University of Minnesota by requiring the notice be sent only to certain agencies and other departments/agencies that request to be notified and expanding the requirement to include Minnesota State Colleges and Universities and the Indian Affairs Council.</p> |
| 4       | <p><b>Surveys, appraisals, and sale.</b></p> <p>Requires the DNR to have surplus state lands offered for sale appraised prior to offering them if their estimated market value exceeds \$100,000. Current law requires this when the estimated market value exceeds \$50,000. Requires the DNR to notify a federally recognized Indian tribe that they have the option to purchase surplus state lands within</p>                                      |

| Section   | Description  |
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|           | the boundary of the tribe's reservation before offering the lands to local governments or offering them through a public sale. The tribe must submit an offer to the DNR within two weeks of receiving the notice and must purchase the lands within two years of an offer being accepted.   |
| 5         | <b>Sale; method; requirements; effects.</b><br>Allows certain tax-forfeited land sales in St. Louis and Koochiching Counties to be conducted at designated facilities within the county and not just county-owned facilities as required under current law.  |
| 6         | <b>Method of sale.</b><br>Amends a law from 2012 that allowed St. Louis County to sell certain tax-forfeited lakeshore property to those leasing the lands, or, if the leaseholder did not purchase the land, to another party under certain conditions. One of the conditions was that the other party would need to pay the leaseholder the appraised value of any improvements made to the land. This section would allow the leaseholder and other party to negotiate the value. |
| 7         | <b>Sunset.</b><br>Provides an additional three years for the tax-forfeited lakeshore property sales described in the previous section to occur.  |
| 8         | <b>Addition to state park.</b><br>Adds land to the statutory boundaries of Glendalough State Park.   |
| 9         | <b>Deletion from state park.</b><br>Removes land from the statutory boundaries of St. Croix State Park.  |
| 10 to 12  | <b>Private/public sales of surplus state land bordering public water.</b><br>Allows the DNR to sell certain state lands bordering public water in Carlton, Cass, and Hubbard Counties.   |
| 13        | <b>Private sale of tax-forfeited land; Itasca County.</b><br>Allows Itasca County to sell by private sale certain tax-forfeited land to be used for a broadcast tower, transmitter, and transmission building.   |
| 14 and 15 | <b>Public sales of surplus state land bordering public water.</b><br>Allows the DNR to sell certain state lands bordering public water in Kanabec and Otter Tail Counties.   |
| 16        | <b>Lease; tax-forfeited land; St. Louis County.</b><br>Allows St. Louis County to lease certain property for more than \$12,000 per year.  |

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| 17        | <p><b>Access to timber on tax-forfeited land; St. Louis County.</b></p> <p>Allows St. Louis County to operate vehicles used for timber harvesting and other related equipment on rustic roads on certain tax-forfeited lands for the purpose of sustainable forest management. Requires the rustic roads to be immediately repaired if damaged and maintained at their preharvest condition. Rustic roads may be designated by road authorities and are defined in statute as “a road that is not on the state-aid system that has the following characteristics: outstanding natural features or scenic beauty; an average daily traffic volume of less than 150 vehicles per day; year-round use as a local access road; and maximum allowable speed of 45 miles per hour.”</p> |
| 18        | <p><b>Private sale of tax-forfeited lands; St. Louis County.</b></p> <p>Allows St. Louis County to sell, through a private sale, certain tax-forfeited property.</p>  |
| 19        | <p><b>Conveyance of state land; Stearns County.</b></p> <p>Allows the commissioner of transportation to convey state land located in Stearns County.</p>  |
| 20 and 21 | <p><b>Private/public sales of surplus state land bordering public water.</b></p> <p>Allows the DNR to sell certain state lands bordering public water in Wabasha, and Yellow Medicine Counties.</p>   |



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