

Subject Local Road Wetland Replacement Program

Authors Sundin

Analyst Janelle Taylor

Date February 14, 2022

Summary

This bill would annually appropriate \$10,000,000 from the general fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to acquire wetland bank credits. Under existing law, BWSR is required to replace wetlands drained or filled for certain local public transportation projects on existing roads. Traditionally, BWSR has met this obligation by restoring, replacing, and preserving wetlands throughout the state's wetland service bank areas to provide wetland banking credits for use by the local road authorities to mitigate wetland impacts. Currently, a number of wetland bank service areas do not have an adequate number of credits to meet expected demand.