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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 5121

03/21/2024 Authored by Newton The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to state lands; appropriating money to condemn certain land in Mille Lacs
1.3 County and authorizing its transfer for no consideration.

1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; CONDEMNATION OF CERTAIN LAND IN MILLE
1.6 LACS COUNTY.

1.7 (a) \$...... in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the fund to the commissioner of
1.8 natural resources to initiate condemnation proceedings of the lands described in paragraph
1.9 (b). The commissioner may use this appropriation for project costs, including but not limited
1.10 to valuation expenses, legal fees, closing costs, and transactional staff costs. This is a onetime
1.11 appropriation and is available until spent.

1.12 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 92.45, 94.09 to 94.16, or any other
1.13 provision of law to the contrary, once condemned under paragraph (a), the commissioner
1.14 of natural resources may convey the surplus land bordering public waters that is described
1.15 in paragraph (d) to a federally recognized Indian Tribe for no consideration.

1.16 (c) The commissioner may make necessary changes to the legal description to correct
1.17 errors and ensure accuracy.

1.18 (d) The land that may be conveyed is located in Mille Lacs County and is described as:
1.19 Government Lot 2, Section 16, Township 42 North, Range 26 West, including all riparian
1.20 rights.

1.21 (e) The land borders Mille Lacs Lake and is not contiguous to other state lands. The
1.22 Department of Natural Resources has determined that the land is not needed for natural

- 2.1 resource purposes and that the state's land management interests would best be served if
- 2.2 the land was returned to Tribal ownership.