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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2951

03/16/2023 Authored by Finke; Lee, F.; Vang; Hansen, R., and Kraft
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Capital Investment

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money for statewide reforestation and
1.3 forest improvements.

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

1.5 Section 1. STATEWIDE REFORESTATION AND FOREST IMPROVEMENTS.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Bond proceeds appropriation. \$44,000,000 is appropriated from the
1.7 bond proceeds fund to the commissioner of natural resources for the purposes of this
1.8 subdivision. Of this appropriation:

1.9 (1) \$10,000,000 is for reforestation to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes,
1.10 section 89.002, subdivision 2, including purchasing native seeds and native seedlings,
1.11 planting, seeding, site preparation, and protection on state lands administered by the
1.12 commissioner;

1.13 (2) \$10,000,000 is to predesign, design, renovate, construct, furnish, and equip a new
1.14 state forest nursery facility;

1.15 (3) \$3,000,000 is for forest stand improvement on state forest lands under Minnesota
1.16 Statutes, sections 88.01 and 88.06;

1.17 (4) \$16,000,000 is for grants to cities, counties, townships, and park and recreation
1.18 boards in cities of the first class, for the removal and the planting of shade trees on public
1.19 land to provide environmental benefits; replace trees lost to forest pests, disease, or storm;
1.20 or to establish a more diverse community forest better able to withstand disease and forest
1.21 pests. For purposes of this paragraph, a "shade tree" means a woody perennial grown
1.22 primarily for aesthetic or environmental purposes with minimal to residual timber value.

2.1 Any tree planted with money under this subdivision must be a climate-adapted species to
2.2 Minnesota; and

2.3 (5) \$5,000,000 is for the Minnesota forests for the future program under Minnesota
2.4 Statutes, section 84.66.

2.5 Subd. 2. **General fund appropriation.** (a) \$7,400,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$400,000
2.6 in fiscal year 2025 are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of natural
2.7 resources for the purposes of this subdivision.

2.8 (b) \$7,000,000 of this appropriation is to increase outreach to private landowners to
2.9 encourage tree planting and to provide cost-share incentives for private forest landowners
2.10 for reforestation and tree planting. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until
2.11 June 30, 2027.

2.12 (c) \$400,000 in fiscal year 2024 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2025 are to accelerate tree
2.13 seed collection to support a growing demand for tree planting on public and private lands.

2.14 Subd. 3. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the bond
2.15 proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue bonds of
2.16 the state in an amount up to \$44,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect
2.17 prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota
2.18 Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.