

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2802

03/06/2014 Authored by Hansen

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; prohibiting the Department of Agriculture from accepting
1.3 funds from agricultural commodity groups for certain activities; appropriating
1.4 money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 17.03, subdivision 10;
1.5 Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 17.1015.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 17.03, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 10. **Gifts; publication fees; advertising; appropriation.** (a) Except as
1.9 provided under paragraph (e), the commissioner may accept for and on behalf of the state
1.10 any gift, bequest, devise, grant, or interest in money or personal property of any kind
1.11 tendered to the state for any purpose pertaining to the activities of the Department of
1.12 Agriculture or any of its divisions.

1.13 (b) The commissioner may charge a fee for reports, publications, or other
1.14 promotional or informational material produced by the Department of Agriculture.
1.15 The commissioner may solicit and accept advertising revenue for any departmental
1.16 publications or promotional materials.

1.17 (c) The fees collected by the commissioner under this section are to recover all or
1.18 part of the costs of providing services for which the fees are paid.

1.19 (d) Money received by the commissioner for these activities may be credited to one
1.20 or more special accounts in the state treasury. Money in those special accounts is annually
1.21 appropriated to the commissioner to provide the services for which the money was received.

1.22 (e) The commissioner must not accept funds for travel to, or participation in, an
1.23 international or domestic marketing or promotion event from a private entity that represents
1.24 the interests of the producers, handlers, dealers, or processors of an agricultural commodity,
1.25 including but not limited to a commodity council established under section 17.54.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2013 Supplement, section 17.1015, is amended to read:

2.2 **17.1015 PROMOTIONAL EXPENDITURES.**

2.3 In order to accomplish the purposes of section 17.101, the commissioner may
2.4 participate jointly with private persons in appropriate programs and projects and may enter
2.5 into contracts to carry out those programs and projects. The contracts may not include
2.6 the acquisition of land or buildings and are not subject to the provisions of chapter 16C
2.7 relating to competitive bidding.

2.8 The commissioner may spend money appropriated for the purposes of section
2.9 17.101 in the same manner that private persons, firms, corporations, and associations
2.10 make expenditures for these purposes, and expenditures made pursuant to section 17.101
2.11 for food, lodging, or travel are not governed by the travel rules of the commissioner of
2.12 management and budget. No later than January 15 each year, the commissioner must
2.13 report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture finance the amount
2.14 and source of funds used to pay for the commissioner's travel to, or participation in,
2.15 international or domestic marketing or promotion events. The commissioner must report
2.16 each event separately.

2.17 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; MARKETING AND PROMOTION EVENTS.**

2.18 \$50,000 in fiscal year 2015 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.19 of agriculture for travel to, and participation in, international or domestic marketing or
2.20 promotion events. This is a base appropriation to be added to any general fund money
2.21 previously appropriated for this purpose in fiscal year 2015.