

A bill for an act
relating to natural resources; providing for management of native prairies in
railroad rights-of-way; requiring rulemaking; appropriating money; amending
Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 219.99.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 219.99, is amended to read:

**219.99 RAILROAD PRAIRIE RIGHT-OF-WAY; BEST MANAGEMENT
PRACTICES.**

Subdivision 1. **Prairie preservation plan.** The commissioner of natural resources
shall conduct a field review of railroad rights-of-way to identify native prairie. The priority
will be to identify and conduct a field review of any surveys which have been conducted
previously, whether by public or private persons, of native prairies within railroad
rights-of-way in this state. In cooperation with railroad companies, the commissioner shall
identify management practices used to control vegetation along railroad rights-of-way. The
commissioner shall then assess the impact of those management practices on the prairie
lands within the railroad rights-of-way. Based on that assessment, the commissioner ~~and~~
~~railroad companies~~ shall ~~jointly~~ develop ~~voluntary~~ a plan of best management practices
for preserving prairie lands within railroad the rights-of-way of each railroad company.

Subd. 2. **Management practices schedule.** No later than March 15 each year, each
railroad company shall register with the commissioner of natural resources a schedule
detailing how the railroad company will comply with its plan of best management
practices to preserve its prairie lands in the forthcoming 12 months.

Subd. 3. **Rules.** The commissioner of natural resources shall adopt rules, including
regular inspection of prairies on railroad rights-of-way, to implement this section. The

H.F. No. 1661, as introduced - 85th Legislative Session (2007-2008)

2.1 commissioner shall present to the 2008 session of the legislature a plan to recover costs
2.2 of the rulemaking.

2.3 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.4 \$..... in fiscal year 2008 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
2.5 of natural resources for the plans and compliance issues in section 1.