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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1611

02/26/2025 Authored by Hansen, R.; Lee, F.; Falconer; Virnig; Gottfried and others
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 natural resources; appropriating money for lawns to lunch pilot program.

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

1.4 Section 1. LAWNS TO LUNCH PILOT PROGRAM; APPROPRIATION.

1.5 (a) \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2026 is appropriated from the general fund to the Board of
1.6 Water and Soil Resources for a lawns to lunch pilot program to provide financial and
1.7 technical assistance to plant residential landscapes and community spaces with food gardens,
1.8 including:

- 1.9 (1) vegetables;
1.10 (2) fruits, including fruit trees;
1.11 (3) other foods; and
1.12 (4) flowering plants necessary to facilitate pollination of the vegetables, fruits, or other
1.13 food plantings.

1.14 (b) The board may enter into agreements with local governments, the University of
1.15 Minnesota Extension Master Gardener volunteer program, and nonprofit organizations to
1.16 support this effort.

1.17 (c) Money appropriated in this section must not be used for:

- 1.18 (1) greenhouses or other buildings; or
1.19 (2) planting food for sale or for another commercial use.

1.20 (d) This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2030.