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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2708

03/24/2025

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

- 1.1

A bill for an act
- 1.2

relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a southeast regional groundwater
- 1.3

protection and soil health initiative.
- 1.4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5

Section 1. **APPROPRIATION; SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GROUNDWATER**
- 1.6

**PROTECTION AND SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE.**
- 1.7

(a) \$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$..... in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the
- 1.8

general fund to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for grants to soil and water
- 1.9

conservation districts in the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston,
- 1.10

Mower, Olmsted, Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona to reduce leaching of excess crop
- 1.11

nutrients into groundwater, immobilize unused nitrogen from the rooting zone, and reduce
- 1.12

erosion as part of a new southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative.
- 1.13

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.06, to the contrary,
- 1.14

a soil and water conservation district that receives a grant under this section may use the
- 1.15

grant to make subgrants for projects that conform to the requirements and limitations of the
- 1.16

Olmsted County groundwater protection and soil health initiative, including a cover crop
- 1.17

program, alternative crops program, and a haying, grazing, and pasture enhancement program.