

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 1717

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN, Clark and Rest)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/20/2025	457	Introduction and first reading Referred to State and Local Government
04/23/2026	9010a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Rules and Administration Pursuant to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 6, referred to Rules and Administration
04/27/2026	9157	Senate Concurrent Resolution 6 Suspended amend previous committee report Re-referred to Finance

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to state government; establishing a working group to develop

1.3 recommendations for a Melissa and Mark Hortman state park in the Capitol Area;

1.4 requiring a report; appropriating money.

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

1.6 Section 1. **MELISSA AND MARK HORTMAN MEMORIAL STATE PARK**

1.7 **WORKING GROUP.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park working group. (a)

1.9 The Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park working group consists of the following

1.10 members:

- 1.11 (1) the governor or the governor's designee;
- 1.12 (2) the commissioner of administration or the commissioner's designee;
- 1.13 (3) the commissioner of natural resources or the commissioner's designee;
- 1.14 (4) the chair of the Capitol Area Architectural and Planning Board or the chair's designee;
- 1.15 (5) the executive director of the Minnesota Historical Society or the executive director's
- 1.16 designee;
- 1.17 (6) the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate committees with primary
- 1.18 jurisdiction over the Department of Administration and Department of Natural Resources
- 1.19 or their designees;

2.1 (7) the co-chairs of the house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction
2.2 over the Department of Administration and Department of Natural Resources or their
2.3 designees; and

2.4 (8) the mayor of the city of St. Paul or the mayor's designee.

2.5 (b) Appointing authorities must submit their appointments to the executive director of
2.6 the Legislative Coordinating Commission no later than July 15, 2026.

2.7 Subd. 2. **Recommendations.** The working group must make recommendations for the
2.8 creation of the Melissa and Mark Hortman Memorial State Park within the Capitol Area as
2.9 defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 15B.02, including:

2.10 (1) identifying the roles and responsibilities of the commissioners of administration and
2.11 natural resources, the Minnesota Historical Society, and the Capitol Area Architectural and
2.12 Planning Board related to the administration of the park, including assigning the roles and
2.13 responsibilities for providing educational programming, interpretive services, planning
2.14 processes for physical changes, and public engagement activities within the park; and

2.15 (2) funding recommendations for establishing and maintaining the park and related
2.16 programming.

2.17 Subd. 3. **Chair.** The working group must elect a chair at its first meeting from among
2.18 its legislative members.

2.19 Subd. 4. **Administrative support; meetings.** (a) The Legislative Coordinating
2.20 Commission must provide administrative support and convene the first meeting by August
2.21 15, 2026.

2.22 (b) The working group must meet at regular intervals as often as necessary to develop
2.23 the recommendations under subdivision 2.

2.24 Subd. 5. **Per diem; expenses.** Members of the working group serve without pay, except
2.25 that legislative members may receive per diem from their respective legislative bodies
2.26 according to the rules of their respective legislative bodies. All members may be reimbursed
2.27 for expenses incurred as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059, subdivision 3.

2.28 Subd. 6. **Report.** By February 1, 2027, the working group must submit a written report
2.29 containing its recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house
2.30 of representatives and senate committees with primary jurisdiction over the Department of
2.31 Administration and the Department of Natural Resources. The report must include draft
2.32 legislation, if needed, to implement the recommendations of the working group. The working

3.1 group expires March 15, 2027, or upon submission of the report required by this subdivision,
3.2 whichever occurs later.

3.3 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

3.4 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

3.5 \$86,000 in fiscal year 2027 is appropriated from the general fund to the Legislative
3.6 Coordinating Commission for the administrative costs of the Melissa and Mark Hortman
3.7 Memorial State Park working group. This is a onetime appropriation.