

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 779

02/12/2015 Authored by Hamilton; Anderson, P.; Kiel; Poppe; Torkelson and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; creating the Agriculture Research, Education, and
1.3 Technology Transfer Board; appropriating money; proposing coding for new law
1.4 in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 41A.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[41A.14] AGRICULTURE RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND**
1.7 **TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER BOARD.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Creation.** (a) The Agriculture Research, Education, and Technology
1.9 Transfer Board is created and consists of the following members:

- 1.10 (1) the commissioner of agriculture;
- 1.11 (2) the dean of the College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences
- 1.12 at the University of Minnesota;
- 1.13 (3) one person representing the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system;
- 1.14 (4) two persons representing statewide agriculture organizations;
- 1.15 (5) a person representing agriculture industry; and
- 1.16 (6) a representative of each of the state's agricultural commodity groups.

1.17 The commissioner and the dean shall be cochairs and are nonvoting members of
1.18 the board.

1.19 (b) Members under paragraph (a), clauses (3) to (6), shall be chosen by their
1.20 respective organizations. The commissioner shall not provide daily or expense
1.21 compensation for board members.

1.22 (c) The commissioner shall provide administrative services for the board and act
1.23 as its fiscal agent.

2.1 Subd. 2. **Duties; grants.** The board shall provide for investments that will most
2.2 efficiently achieve agricultural research, education, and technology transfer in the state
2.3 through improved infrastructure and accountability. Priority shall be given to human
2.4 infrastructure. The board shall provide grants for:

2.5 (1) agricultural research and technology transfer needs and recipients including, but
2.6 not limited to, agricultural research and extension at the University of Minnesota, research
2.7 and outreach centers, the University of Minnesota Veterinary School, the Veterinary
2.8 Diagnostic Laboratory, and the Minnesota Agriculture Fertilizer Research and Education
2.9 Council;

2.10 (2) agriculture rapid response for plant and animal diseases and pests; and

2.11 (3) agricultural education including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Agriculture
2.12 Education Leadership Council, farm business management, mentoring programs, graduate
2.13 debt forgiveness, and high school programs.

2.14 Subd. 3. **Fund.** An agriculture research, education, and technology transfer fund
2.15 is created in the state treasury. The fund consists of money received in the form of
2.16 gifts, grants, reimbursement, or appropriations from any source for any of the purposes
2.17 provided in subdivision 2, and any interest or earnings of the fund. Money in the fund is
2.18 appropriated to the commissioner of agriculture for the purposes under subdivision 2.

2.19 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; TRANSFER.**

2.20 \$18,750,000 in fiscal year 2016 and \$18,750,000 in fiscal year 2017 are appropriated
2.21 from the general fund to the commissioner of agriculture for transfer to the fund created in
2.22 Minnesota Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 3. Of these amounts:

2.23 (1) at least \$2,000,000 each year is for agriculture rapid response under Minnesota
2.24 Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 2, clause (2); and

2.25 (2) at least \$2,400,000 each year is for agricultural education under Minnesota
2.26 Statutes, section 41A.14, subdivision 2, clause (3).

2.27 Up to one percent of the appropriations may be used for administrative expenses of
2.28 the commissioner of agriculture.