

Subd. 3. This section shall not apply to any bank with a stock form of ownership.

Approved April 7, 1980

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**CHAPTER 515—S.F.No. 768**

*An act relating to natural resources; requiring county board or land exchange board approval on the acquisition of wildlife lands by the commissioner of natural resources; amending Minnesota Statutes 1978, Section 97.481.*

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 1978, Section 97.481, is amended to read:

97.481 **ACQUISITION OF WILDLIFE LANDS.** Subdivision 1. The commissioner of natural resources is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire, in the name of the state, by gift, lease, purchase and transfer of state lands, any such wildlife lands, such as marsh or wetlands, and the margins thereof, including ponds, small lakes and stream bottom lands, which he finds desirable to acquire in the interests of water conservation relating to wildlife development programs, and, he may also acquire for this purpose from any state agency, itself included, lands now in state ownership or tax-forfeited which are suitable for wildlife purposes, and when such lands are so acquired, he is authorized to develop the same in the interest of wildlife, recreational or public hunting areas as he shall deem desirable. In the determination of which lands will be acquired as wildlife lands, the commissioner shall assign highest priority to parcels containing type 3 or 4 wetlands, as defined in U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Circular No. 39 (1971 edition), which were previously determined to be public waters. ~~No such lands shall be acquired until first approved for such purchase, or lease, by a majority of the members of the board of county commissioners in the counties where the land to be purchased, or leased, is located. In the counties in which a soil and water conservation district is organized the supervisors will act as counsellors to the board of county commissioners regarding the best utilization and capability of the land proposed for purchase, including the questions of drainage and flood control.~~ The commissioner in the purchase of such wetlands must recognize that when a majority of land owners, or owners of a majority of the land in the watershed, petition for a drainage outlet, that the state should not interfere, or unnecessarily delay such drainage proceedings when such proceedings are conducted according to the Minnesota Drainage Code. In no case should state lands, so purchased, or leased, be used to produce crops unless such crops are needed to sustain wildlife. No lands described herein shall be acquired unless there is acquired simultaneously therewith a right-of-way or easement from said lands to a public road so as to make entry upon said lands available to the public. The commissioner may designate lands or interests in lands acquired pursuant to this section as wildlife management areas for the purposes of the outdoor recreation system.

Changes or additions indicated by underline deletions by ~~strikeout~~

Subd. 2. Before the commissioner acquires lands by purchase or lease pursuant to this section, he shall proceed in accordance with this subdivision.

(a) The commissioner shall notify the board of county commissioners in each county and the town officers in each town where land is to be acquired and shall furnish the board and the town officers a description of the land to be acquired. The county board shall approve or disapprove the proposed acquisition within 90 days after the commissioner has notified the county board and the town officers of the proposed acquisition and furnished the description of the land involved. An extension of time, not to exceed 30 days, may be given by the commissioner to a county board. In a county in which a soil and water conservation district is organized, the supervisors will act as counselors to the county board regarding the best utilization and capability of the land proposed for acquisition, including the questions of drainage and flood control.

(b) If the county board approves an acquisition within the 90-day period or extension thereof, the commissioner may proceed with the acquisition.

(c) If the county board disapproves an acquisition it shall, at the time of its decision, set forth valid reasons for disapproval. The landowner or the commissioner may appeal the county board's disapproval to the district court in the county in which any of the lands are situated. If the district court, or the supreme court on appeal, finds that the county board's disapproval is arbitrary or capricious or that the reasons stated for disapproval are invalid, or if the county board fails to give any reasons or fails to act to approve or disapprove of the acquisition within the 90-day period or extension thereof, the commissioner or the owner of the land which the commissioner seeks to acquire may submit the proposed acquisition to the land exchange board which shall consider the interests of the county, the state, and the landowner and determine whether the acquisition will be in the public interest.

(d) The land exchange board shall conduct a hearing upon each acquisition submitted to it after giving notice to all interested parties, including, but not limited to, the board of county commissioners in the county where the land to be acquired is located, the commissioner, and the owner of the land. The land exchange board shall hold its hearing and make its decision within 60 days after submission of the proposed acquisition to it.

If a majority of the members of the land exchange board approves the acquisition, the commissioner may proceed with the acquisition, but if a majority of the members of the land exchange board disapproves the acquisition, the commissioner shall not acquire the property.

Approved April 7, 1980