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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4860

03/13/2024 Authored by Hansen, R., 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; modifying forest cost certification requirements;
1.3 establishing account; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022,
1.4 sections 89.0385; 97A.055, subdivision 2, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 89.0385, is amended to read:

1.7 89.0385 FOREST MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT ACCOUNT; COST
1.8 CERTIFICATION.

1.9 (a) The commissioner shall certify the total costs incurred for forest management, forest
1.10 improvement, and road improvement on state-managed lands, excluding lands that are not
1.11 school trust lands within wildlife management areas and aquatic management areas, during
1.12 each fiscal year. The commissioner shall distribute forest management receipts credited to
1.13 various accounts according to this section.

1.14 (b) The amount of the certified costs incurred for forest management activities on state
1.15 lands shall be transferred from the account where receipts are deposited to the forest
1.16 management investment account in the natural resources fund, except for those costs certified
1.17 under section 16A.125. Transfers may occur quarterly, based on quarterly cost and revenue
1.18 reports, throughout the fiscal year, with final certification and reconciliation after each fiscal
1.19 year. Transfers in a fiscal year cannot exceed receipts credited to the account.

1.20 (c) The amount of the certified costs incurred for forest management activities on nonstate
1.21 lands managed under a good neighbor or joint powers agreement must be transferred from
1.22 the account where receipts are deposited to the forest management investment account in

2.1 the natural resources fund. Transfers for costs incurred may occur after projects or timber  
2.2 permits are finalized.

2.3 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.055, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

2.4 Subd. 2. **Receipts.** (a) Except as provided under paragraph (b), the commissioner of  
2.5 management and budget shall credit to the game and fish fund all money received under  
2.6 the game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for  
2.7 game or fish purposes, including receipts from:

2.8 (1) licenses and permits issued;

2.9 (2) fines and forfeited bail;

2.10 (3) sales of contraband, wild animals, and other property under the control of the division,  
2.11 except as provided in section 97A.225, subdivision 8, clause (2);

2.12 (4) fees from advanced education courses for hunters and trappers;

2.13 (5) reimbursements of expenditures by the division;

2.14 (6) contributions to the division; and

2.15 (7) revenue credited to the game and fish fund under section 297A.94, paragraph (h),  
2.16 clause (1).

2.17 (b) The commissioner of management and budget must credit all revenue generated  
2.18 from timber on state lands, excluding school trust lands, that are designated as wildlife  
2.19 management areas and aquatic management areas to the wildlife and aquatic management  
2.20 account under section 97A.055, subdivision 2c.

2.21 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.055, is amended by adding a subdivision to  
2.22 read:

2.23 Subd. 2c. **Wildlife and aquatic management account.** The wildlife and aquatic  
2.24 management account is established in the game and fish fund. All money earned by the  
2.25 wildlife and aquatic management account must be credited to the account. The account  
2.26 consists of revenue generated from wildlife management areas and aquatic management  
2.27 areas as provided under subdivision 2, paragraph (b). Money in the account is appropriated  
2.28 to the commissioner to implement forest life-cycle activities, including but not limited to  
2.29 site preparation, natural regeneration enhancements, tree planting, regeneration monitoring,  
2.30 forest stand improvements, invasive species control, post-timber sale restoration, and other  
2.31 final timber harvest activities necessary to ensure optimal forest wildlife habitat development.