

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

S.F. No. 2191

(SENATE AUTHORS: SCHMIT, Ruud, Dziedzic, Housley and Nelson)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
05/15/2015	3572	Introduction and first reading Referred to Finance
05/17/2015	4257	Author added Housley
03/17/2016	5126	Withdrawn and re-referred to Jobs, Agriculture and Rural Development
03/24/2016	5278a	Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance
03/29/2016	5324	Author added Nelson

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; establishing a pollinator investment grant program;
1.3 appropriating money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes,
1.4 chapter 17.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[17.119] POLLINATOR INVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAM.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Establishment.** The commissioner may award a pollinator
1.8 investment grant to a person who implements best management practices to protect wild
1.9 and managed insect pollinators in this state equal to ten percent of the first \$..... of
1.10 qualifying expenditures, provided the person makes qualifying expenditures of at least
1.11 \$..... The commissioner may award multiple pollinator investment grants to a person
1.12 over the life of the program as long as the cumulative amount does not exceed \$.....

1.13 Subd. 2. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "qualified expenditures"
1.14 means the amount spent for:

1.15 (1) in conventional farming systems, planting neonicotinoid-free seeds and
1.16 implementing integrated pest management practices that do not involve the use of
1.17 pollinator lethal insecticides; and

1.18 (2) creating new pollinator habitat, protected from contamination by pollinator
1.19 lethal insecticides, including contamination from planting dust; soil contamination; or
1.20 water contamination, by:

1.21 (i) seeding native flowering plants as prairie strips within productive cropland to
1.22 provide forage for pollinators;

1.23 (ii) renovating a pasture system by overseeding a pasture with high-diversity native
1.24 forb or native or non-native legume mixtures;

- 2.1 (iii) interseeding legumes, brassicas, buckwheat, or other pollinator forage plants
2.2 with corn or soybean, or planting these as cover crops before or after corn or soybean;
2.3 (iv) planting or seeding riparian and wetland areas and vegetative buffer strips with
2.4 native perennial cover that provides forage for pollinators;
2.5 (v) planting a native hedgerow; or
2.6 (vi) increasing plant diversity in nonproductive areas by adding native flowering
2.7 forbs, trees, or shrubs, or by introducing pollinator-friendly plant species into existing
2.8 strands of grasses.

2.9 Subd. 3. **Eligibility.** (a) To be eligible for a pollinator investment grant, a person
2.10 must:

2.11 (1) be a resident of Minnesota or an entity specifically defined in section 500.24,
2.12 subdivision 2, that is eligible to own farmland and operate a farm in this state under
2.13 section 500.24;

2.14 (2) be the principal operator of the farm; and

2.15 (3) apply to the commissioner on forms prescribed by the commissioner, including a
2.16 statement of the qualifying expenditures made during the qualifying period along with any
2.17 proof or other documentation the commissioner may require.

2.18 (b) The \$..... maximum grant applies at the entity level for partnerships, S
2.19 corporations, C corporations, trusts, and estates as well as at the individual level. In the
2.20 case of married individuals, the grant is limited to \$..... for a married couple.

2.21 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.22 \$..... is appropriated in fiscal year 2017 from the general fund to the commissioner
2.23 of agriculture for the pollinator investment grant program under Minnesota Statutes,
2.24 section 17.119.