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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FOURTH SPECIAL SESSION

H. F. No. 24

09/11/2020 Authored by Hansen
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to environment; modifying previous appropriation from environment and
1.3 natural resources trust fund; amending Laws 2018, chapter 214, article 4, section
1.4 2, subdivision 9.

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

1.6 Section 1. Laws 2018, chapter 214, article 4, section 2, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 9. Land Acquisition, Habitat, and
1.8 Recreation -0- 17,439,000

1.9 (a) Grants for Local Parks, Trails, and Natural
1.10 Areas

1.11 \$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust
1.12 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
1.13 to solicit, rank, and fund competitive matching
1.14 grants for local parks, trail connections, and
1.15 natural and scenic areas under Minnesota
1.16 Statutes, section 85.019. The appropriation is
1.17 for local nature-based recreation and
1.18 connections to regional and state natural areas
1.19 and recreation facilities and does not include
1.20 athletic facilities such as sport fields, courts,
1.21 and playgrounds. This appropriation is
1.22 available until June 30, 2021, by which time
1.23 the project must be completed and final
1.24 products delivered.

2.1 **(b) Develop Mesabi Trail Segment From County**
2.2 **Road 88 to Ely**

2.3 \$600,000 the second year is from the trust
2.4 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
2.5 for an agreement with the St. Louis and Lake
2.6 Counties Regional Railroad Authority for
2.7 environmental assessment, permitting,
2.8 right-of-way easements or other acquisition
2.9 as needed, engineering, and construction of
2.10 an approximately three-mile-long bituminous
2.11 surface section of the Mesabi Trail between
2.12 Ely and the intersection of Highway 169 and
2.13 County Road 88. This appropriation is
2.14 available until June 30, 2022, by which time
2.15 the project must be completed and final
2.16 products delivered.

2.17 **(c) Harmony State Trail Extension Land**
2.18 **Acquisition**

2.19 \$235,000 the second year is from the trust
2.20 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
2.21 for an agreement with the city of Harmony to
2.22 acquire fee title of about 16 parcels to allow
2.23 for the approximate six-mile extension of the
2.24 legislatively authorized state trail from
2.25 Harmony south to the Iowa state border with
2.26 a spur to Niagara Cave. The land must be
2.27 transferred to the state after it has been
2.28 purchased.

2.29 **(d) Mississippi Blufflands State Trail - Red Wing**
2.30 **Barn Bluff to Colvill Park Segment**

2.31 \$550,000 the second year is from the trust
2.32 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
2.33 for an agreement with the city of Red Wing
2.34 to be used with other funds to construct an
2.35 approximate three-quarter-mile-long
2.36 hard-surfaced segment of the Mississippi

3.1 Blufflands State Trail along Red Wing's
3.2 Mississippi River riverfront from Barn Bluff
3.3 Regional Park to Colvill Park. This
3.4 appropriation is available until June 30, 2021,
3.5 by which time the project must be completed
3.6 and final products delivered.

3.7 **(e) Swedish Immigrant Regional Trail Segment**
3.8 **within Interstate State Park**

3.9 \$2,254,000 the second year is from the trust
3.10 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
3.11 for an agreement with Chisago County
3.12 Environmental Services to construct an
3.13 approximate one-half-mile regional county
3.14 trail segment within Interstate State Park from
3.15 the end point of the existing trail at the park
3.16 boundary to city hall including a trail bridge
3.17 over the ravine and parking and trailhead
3.18 improvements and to conduct a natural and
3.19 cultural review to determine the feasibility and
3.20 route of a future section of the trail through
3.21 the park. This appropriation is available until
3.22 June 30, 2021, by which time the project must
3.23 be completed and final products delivered.

3.24 **(f) Enhancement Plan for Superior Hiking Trail**

3.25 \$100,000 the second year is from the trust
3.26 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
3.27 for an agreement with the Superior Hiking
3.28 Trail Association to evaluate improvements
3.29 to the 310-mile-long Superior Hiking Trail
3.30 including routing, safety, water management,
3.31 maintenance, and other environmental,
3.32 recreational, and design issues and to develop
3.33 an interactive trail-management system to
3.34 capture efficiencies and best management
3.35 practices.

4.1 **(g) Protecting Mississippi River Headwaters**
4.2 **Lands through Local, State, and Federal**
4.3 **Partnership**

4.4 \$700,000 the second year is from the trust
4.5 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
4.6 for an agreement with the city of Baxter, in
4.7 cooperation with Brainerd Public Schools and
4.8 the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Program,
4.9 to acquire about 200 acres of forested land on
4.10 the upper Mississippi River adjacent to
4.11 Mississippi River Overlook Park for multiple
4.12 public benefits, including being an outdoor
4.13 classroom for local schools. To be eligible for
4.14 reimbursement, costs for real estate
4.15 transactions must be specific to this acquisition
4.16 and documented as required in subdivision 15,
4.17 paragraph (k).

4.18 **(h) Protecting North-Central Minnesota Lakes**

4.19 \$750,000 the second year is from the trust
4.20 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
4.21 for an agreement with the Crow Wing County
4.22 Soil and Water Conservation District to
4.23 increase watershed protection to maintain and
4.24 improve water quality in lakes and rivers in
4.25 Aitkin and Crow Wing Counties with about
4.26 ten permanent RIM conservation easements
4.27 and 12 forest stewardship plans and by
4.28 implementing six best management practices.
4.29 Of this amount, up to \$59,000 may be
4.30 contributed to an easement stewardship
4.31 account established under Minnesota Statutes,
4.32 section 103B.103, as approved in the work
4.33 plan. This appropriation is available until June
4.34 30, 2022, by which time the project must be
4.35 completed and final products delivered.

4.36 **(i) Easement Program for Native Prairie Bank**

5.1 \$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust
5.2 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
5.3 to provide technical stewardship assistance to
5.4 private landowners, restore and enhance about
5.5 270 acres of native prairie protected by
5.6 easements in the native prairie bank, and
5.7 acquire easements for the native prairie bank
5.8 in accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section
5.9 84.96, on about 275 acres, including preparing
5.10 initial baseline property assessments. Up to
5.11 \$120,000 of this appropriation may be
5.12 deposited in the natural resources conservation
5.13 easement stewardship account, created in
5.14 Minnesota Statutes, section 84.69, proportional
5.15 to the number of easement acres acquired. A
5.16 list of proposed easement acquisitions and
5.17 restoration sites for the native prairie bank are
5.18 required in the work plan. This appropriation
5.19 is available until June 30, 2021, by which time
5.20 the project must be completed and final
5.21 products delivered.

5.22 **(j) Minnesota State Trail Development**

5.23 \$2,500,000 the second year is from the trust
5.24 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
5.25 to expand high-priority recreational
5.26 opportunities on Minnesota's state trails by
5.27 developing new trail segments and
5.28 rehabilitating, improving, and enhancing
5.29 existing state trails. High-priority trail
5.30 segments to develop and enhance include but
5.31 are not limited to the Gateway, Gitchi Gami,
5.32 Paul Bunyan, and Heartland State Trails. A
5.33 proposed list of trail projects on legislatively
5.34 authorized state trails is required in the work
5.35 plan. This appropriation is available until June

6.1 30, 2021, by which time the project must be
6.2 completed and final products delivered.

6.3 **(k) Minnesota State Parks and State Trails**

6.4 \$2,500,000 the second year is from the trust
6.5 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
6.6 to acquire about 163 acres of high-priority in
6.7 holdings from willing sellers within the
6.8 legislatively authorized boundaries of state
6.9 parks and trails in order to protect Minnesota's
6.10 natural heritage, enhance outdoor recreational
6.11 opportunities, and improve the efficiency of
6.12 public land management. Priorities include
6.13 but are not limited to Tettegouche, Sibley, and
6.14 Minneopa State Parks and the Goodhue
6.15 Pioneer State Trail. A list of proposed
6.16 acquisitions is required in the work plan. This
6.17 appropriation is available until June 30, 2021,
6.18 by which time the project must be completed
6.19 and final products delivered.

6.20 **(l) Scientific and Natural Areas Program**

6.21 \$3,250,000 the second year is from the trust
6.22 fund to the commissioner of natural resources
6.23 for the scientific and natural areas program.
6.24 Of this amount, \$1,500,000 is for habitat
6.25 restoration activities, \$500,000 is for scientific
6.26 and natural areas public engagement and
6.27 outreach, and \$1,250,000 is to acquire strategic
6.28 high-quality lands that meet criteria for
6.29 scientific and natural areas under Minnesota
6.30 Statutes, section 86A.05, from willing sellers.
6.31 A list of proposed acquisitions and restorations
6.32 is required in the work plan. This
6.33 appropriation is available until June 30, 2021,
6.34 by which time the project must be completed
6.35 and final products delivered.

7.1 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective retroactively from July 1, 2019.