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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 1877

03/04/2021 Authored by Hansen, R.; Ecklund; Keeler; Sundin; Lee and others

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 use of critical habitat private sector

1.3 matching account; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020,

1.4 section 84.943, subdivisions 3, 5, by adding a subdivision.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 84.943, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.7 Subd. 3. **Appropriations matched by private funds.** (a) Appropriations transferred to

1.8 the critical habitat private sector matching account and money credited to the account under

1.9 section 168.1296, subdivision 5, may be expended only to the extent that they are matched

1.10 ~~equally~~ with contributions from private sources or by funds contributed to the nongame

1.11 wildlife management account. The private contributions may be made in cash, property,

1.12 land, or interests in land. Appropriations transferred to the account that are not matched

1.13 within three years from the date of the appropriation shall cancel to the source of the

1.14 appropriation. For the purposes of this section, the private contributions of property, land,

1.15 or interests in land that are retained by the commissioner shall be valued in accordance with

1.16 their appraised value.

1.17 (b) For every dollar used as a match under paragraph (a), the commissioner may expend

1.18 up to two dollars from the account for the purposes described in subdivision 6.

1.19 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 84.943, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

1.20 Subd. 5. **Pledges and contributions.** ~~(a)~~ The commissioner of natural resources may

1.21 accept contributions and pledges to the critical habitat private sector matching account. A

1.22 pledge that is made contingent on an appropriation is acceptable and shall be reported with

other pledges as required in this section. The commissioner may agree to match a contribution contingent on a future appropriation. In the budget request for each biennium, the commissioner shall report the balance of contributions in the account and the amount that has been pledged for payment in the succeeding two calendar years.

~~(b) Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources only for the direct acquisition or improvement of land or interests in land as provided in section 84.944. To the extent of available appropriations other than bond proceeds, the money matched to the nongame wildlife management account may be used for the management of nongame wildlife projects as specified in section 290.431. Acquisition includes:~~

~~(1) purchase of land or an interest in land by the commissioner; or~~

~~(2) acceptance by the commissioner of gifts of land or interests in land as program projects.~~

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 84.943, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. **Expenditures.** Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner and may be expended only as follows:

(1) revenue from license plates depicting a loon, big game, turkey, or pheasant or license plates not otherwise specified under this subdivision must be used to:

(i) purchase land or an interest in land; or

(ii) accept gifts of land or interests in land as program projects;

(2) revenue from license plates depicting a chickadee or lady slipper must be used in addition to appropriations from the nongame wildlife management account for the purposes specified in section 290.431;

(3) revenue from license plates depicting anglers or fish must be used for aquatic management purposes;

(4) revenue from license plates depicting bees or other pollinators must be transferred to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for grants or payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes; and

(5) private contributions and other revenue must be used for the purposes under clause (1), unless specified for another purpose under this subdivision by the donor.