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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2477

03/08/2016 Authored by Hansen, Wagenius, Hoppe and Bly

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money for RIM and other  
1.3 conservation purposes; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.

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

1.5 Section 1. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. **RIM/conservation reserve enhancement program.** (a)  
1.7 \$30,000,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Board of Water and  
1.8 Soil Resources to acquire conservation easements from landowners to preserve, restore,  
1.9 create, and enhance wetlands and riparian lands, and to restore and enhance rivers and  
1.10 streams and associated uplands, in order to protect soil and water quality, support fish and  
1.11 wildlife habitat, reduce flood damage, and provide other public benefits. The provisions of  
1.12 Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, apply to this program.

1.13 (b) The board shall give priority to leveraging federal funds by enrolling targeted new  
1.14 lands or enrolling environmentally sensitive lands that leverage federal conservation funds.

1.15 (c) The board is authorized to enter into new agreements and amend past agreements  
1.16 with landowners as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 5, to  
1.17 allow for restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement. Of this appropriation, up to five  
1.18 percent may be used for restoration, rehabilitation, and enhancement.

1.19 (d) Of this appropriation, up to \$4,100,000 may be used for conservation easement  
1.20 stewardship purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

1.21 Subd. 2. **Local road wetland replacement program.** (a) \$5,000,000 is  
1.22 appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to acquire land or permanent easements and to  
1.23 restore, create, enhance, and preserve wetlands to replace those wetlands drained or filled

2.1 as a result of the repair, reconstruction, replacement, or rehabilitation of existing public  
2.2 roads as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.222, subdivision 1, paragraphs (l)  
2.3 and (m). The board may vary the priority order of Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.222,  
2.4 subdivision 3, paragraph (a), to implement an in-lieu fee agreement approved under  
2.5 section 404 of the Clean Water Act. The purchase price paid for acquisition of land or  
2.6 perpetual easement must be a fair market value as determined by the board. The board  
2.7 may enter into agreements with the federal government, other state agencies, political  
2.8 subdivisions, nonprofit organizations, fee title owners, or other qualified private entities to  
2.9 acquire wetland replacement credits in accordance with Minnesota Rules, chapter 8420.

2.10 (b) Of this appropriation, up to \$60,000 may be used for conservation easement  
2.11 stewardship purposes under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.103.

2.12 Subd. 3. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the  
2.13 bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue  
2.14 bonds of the state in an amount up to \$35,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with  
2.15 the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the  
2.16 Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.