

# 2018 Legislative Session Report

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## Bill and Session Summary

The ML 2018 (FY19) ENRTF appropriations bill was combined with a bonding bill as [HF 4425](#) on 5/20/18. This bill was passed, as amended, by the House and Senate and signed into law by the governor on 5/30/18. Following is a summary of ENRTF appropriations, additional ENRTF- related components of the bill, and outcomes of other bills of interest.

## ENRTF appropriations:

- Sixty- seven total appropriations
- Sixty- one projects were included at the amount recommended by the LCCMR.
- Three projects had amounts reduced:
  - *County Geologic Atlases - Part A (03a)*, UMN-- by \$1,260,000 from \$2,500,000 to \$1,240,000
  - *Increase Diversity in Environmental Careers to Serve Minnesota's Changing Demographics (05I)*, DNR-- by \$200,000 from \$750,000 to \$550,000
  - *Nongame Wildlife Program Acceleration (08a)*, DNR-- by \$780,000 from \$1,000,000 to \$220,000
- One project was removed:
  - *County Geologic Atlases - Part B (03b)*, DNR – from \$1,500,000 to \$0
- One project had the amount increased:
  - *Agricultural Weed Control Using Autonomous Mowers (08d)*, UMN- Morris by \$200,000 from \$550,000 to \$750,000
- One project and associated policy was added:
  - *Lake Agnes Treatment (04I)*, BWSR - \$600,000
  - Allows phosphorous offsets or includes a lake management plan for Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District's WWT facility permit with reduction in phosphorous achievable with carp and alum treatments performed in Lake Winona and Agnes. [P.168-169]
- The bill also includes extensions for the availability of funds as well as corrections to prior appropriations as recommended by LCCMR. One additional extension and correction was made.
- The bill adds an appropriation of \$2,940,000 the first year (FY19) and up to \$7,840,000 each year for 19 years to finance ENRTF- backed appropriation bonds. These appropriations will be paid for with ENRTF proceeds available for annual spending. [P.182]

## Additional ENRTF policy, statute changes, and appropriation bonds

[HF 4425](#) also included the following [Bill Page #]:

- Changes LCCMR’s governing statute, MS 116P, to allow for spending on principle and interest of appropriation bonds [P. 180]
- Provides \$98 million in appropriation bonds for specific projects [P. 182-186]
- Changes LCCMR’s governing statute, MS 116P, to allow ENRTF funds to be spent on municipal water pollution control for municipalities with population under 5,000 [P.151]
- Changes LCCMR’s governing statute, MS 116P, to adjust interest rates for water system improvement loans [P. 151]
- Directs LCCMR until 2021 to consider Wastewater Treatment System Grants up to \$10 million and Wastewater Treatment System Loans up to 5% of the ENRTF corpus for municipalities with population under 5,000. FY19 proposal deadline for this purpose extended to July 1, 2018 [P. 140]
- Directs the LCCMR to consider recommending ENRTF funds in FY20 to pay for cleanup of a closed landfill in Burnsville. FY19 proposal deadline for this purpose extended to July 15, 2018 [P. 151]

**Other bills of interest:**

*Signed into law*

[HF3122](#) (Urdahl) / [SF2668](#) (Dahms)- Public facilities authority clean water bond issue and appropriations for \$167 million—included in the bonding bill ([HF 4425](#)) at \$64.35m for the following:

- 446A.07 State Match for Federal Grants (\$14m)
- 446A.072 Water Infrastructure Funding Program (\$25m)
- Other (\$25.35m)

[HF2789](#) (Fabian) / [SF2688](#) (Lang) – FY2019/ML2018 OHF funding bill. The final OHF bill was signed into law as [HF3423](#) and included the original LSOHC recommendations along with an amendment to MN Statute 97A.056 requiring county notification. The additive language to the statute was in two pieces as follows:

- 97A.056, subd. 3(j): “By July 1 each year, the council shall provide counties with a list of project proposals that include potential fee title land acquisitions in the county that is based on that year's funding requests received by the council from nongovernmental organizations.”
- 97A.056, subd. 13(j): “At least 30 days before closing on an acquisition of land in fee title with money in whole or in part from the outdoor heritage fund, a nongovernmental organization must notify in writing the county board and town board where the land is located and furnish them a description of the land to be acquired.”

*Not signed into law*

[HF 2935](#) (Fabian)/ [SF 2855](#) (Ingebrigtsen)- Nongovernmental organizations acquiring fee title to land with money from the outdoor heritage fund and the environment and natural resources trust fund notice to local governments requirement

[HF 3623](#) (Bliss)/ [SF 2984](#) (Koran)- Setting compensation for lottery retailers in law

- Would impact future lottery proceeds to the ENRTF. Fiscal note for FY19, FY20, FY21 included reductions of \$2.157m, \$2.368m, and \$2.368m respectively
- The Lottery has announced plans to increase commissions on an incentive basis with the intent to offset any impact with additional sales.

[HF 4016](#) Section 43- consolidating Minnesota State Lottery information technology services with MN.IT.

- Potential impact on lottery proceeds due to conflicts with Multi-State Lottery Association rules.

[HF4289](#) (Garofalo)-- Renewable development account appropriations related to 4 projects recommended by LCCMR