

2024 Legislative Session Report

The 2024 legislative session concluded on May 20nd and included the passage of several bills that impact the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR). The following is a summary of ENRTF and LCCMR-related bills, and links to other bills of interest.

ENRTF Appropriations

[M.L. 2024, Chapter 83](#) (H.F. 3377), the environment and natural resources trust fund bill, contained ENRTF appropriations as well as some carry forwards and corrections to previous years' appropriations. H.F. 3377 passed the House 94-35, passed the Senate 41-14, and was signed by the Governor on April 15, 2024. See below for more detail:

- 101 appropriations totaling \$79,644,000 from the ENRTF
- 25 project extensions.
- Changes to the language for 6 prior years' appropriations.
- All as recommended by the LCCMR.

ENRTF/ LCCMR Policy

[M.L. 2024, Chapter 116](#) (H.F. 3911), the environment and natural resources supplemental budget bill, contained some policy provisions related to the ENRTF and LCCMR:

- Article 9, Section 1 amends 116P.09, subdivision 6 to read:

Subd. 6. **Conflict of interest.** (a) A commission member, a technical advisory committee member, a peer reviewer, or an employee of the commission may not participate in or vote on a decision of the commission, advisory committee, or peer review relating to an organization in which the member, peer reviewer, or employee has either a direct or indirect personal financial interest. While serving on the commission or technical advisory committee or as a peer reviewer or while an employee of the commission, a person must avoid any potential conflict of interest.

(b) A commission member may not vote on a motion regarding the purchase of land under section 116P.18 or the final recommendations of the commission required under section 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), if the motion relates to an organization in which the member has a direct personal financial interest. If a commission member is prohibited from voting under this paragraph, the number of affirmative votes required under section 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), or section 116P.18 is reduced by the number of members ineligible to vote under this paragraph.

(c) A commission member may not vote on a motion regarding the purchase of land under section 116P.18 or the final recommendations of the commission required under section 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), if the motion relates to an organization in which the member has a direct personal financial interest. If a commission member is prohibited from voting under this paragraph, the number of affirmative votes required under section 116P.05, subdivision 2, paragraph (a), or section 116P.18 is reduced by the number of members ineligible to vote under this paragraph.
- Article 9, Section 2 amends 116P.18 to read:

116P.18 LANDS IN PUBLIC DOMAIN.

Money appropriated from the trust fund must not be used to purchase any land in fee title or a permanent conservation easement if the land in question is fully or partially owned by the state or a political subdivision of the state or was acquired fully or partially with state money, unless:

- (1) the purchase creates additional direct benefit to the protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's air, water, land, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources; and
- (2) the purchase is approved, prior to the acquisition, by an affirmative vote of at least 11 members of the commission, except as provided under section 116P.09, subdivision 6, paragraph (b).

Other ENRTF and LCCMR-related project funding

Projects funded with prior ENRTF appropriations potentially received additional appropriations. Staff have not yet analyzed the impact of these appropriations on the projects.

[M.L. 2024, Chapter 127, Article 69, Section 15](#) (Funding source: IRRB Bonds)

- **Article 69, Sec. 15, Subd. 3(a)(11). City of Silver Bay - \$3,000,000 (IRRRB)**
To design, engineer, construct, and reconstruct publicly owned infrastructure including sewers, water systems, utility extensions, street construction, wastewater treatment, stormwater management systems, sidewalks, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Potentially Related to: 2022-127, 2023-210
- **Article 69, Sec. 16, Subd. 3(a)(8). City of Silver Bay - \$3,000,000 (IRRRB)**
To design, engineer, construct, and reconstruct publicly owned infrastructure including sewers, water systems, utility extensions, street construction, wastewater treatment, stormwater management systems, sidewalks, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Potentially Related to: 2022-127, 2023-210
- **Article 69, Sec. 15, Subd. 3(a)(18). Minnesota Discovery Center - \$2,420,000 (IRRRB)**
\$200,000 may, at the discretion of the director of the Minnesota Discovery Center, be used for operating expenses, and \$2,220,000 must be used to design, construct, renovate, furnish, and repair facilities, including HVAC upgrades, demolition, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, at the Minnesota Discovery Center in the city of Chisholm, and for historical research funding.
Potentially Related to: 2023-231
- **Article 69, Sec. 16, Subd. 3(a)(1). Minnesota Discovery Center - \$3,200,000 (IRRRB)**
\$200,000 may, at the discretion of the director of the Minnesota Discovery Center, be used for operating expenses and \$3,000,000 must be used to design, construct, renovate, furnish, and repair facilities, including HVAC upgrades, demolition, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, at the Minnesota Discovery Center in the city of Chisholm, and for historical research funding.
Potentially Related to: 2023-231
- **Article 69, Sec. 15, Subd. 3(a)(25). Veterans On The Lake - \$400,000 (IRRRB)**
To demolish existing structures and build a triplex that is compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Potentially Related to: 2021-325, 2025-186

[ML 2024, Chapter 106](#) (Funding source: Outdoor Heritage Fund)

Article 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5v. Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum

\$2,300,000 the second year is to the commissioner of natural resources for an agreement with the city of St. Cloud to enhance the Highbanks Ravine Bat Hibernaculum in St. Cloud.

Potentially Related to: 2021-363

[ML 2024, Chapter 116](#) (Funding source: General Fund)

Article 1, Sec. 4, Subd. 4. Lawns to Legumes - \$800,000

\$800,000 the second year is for the lawns to legumes program under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.104. The board may enter into agreements with local governments, Metro Blooms, and other organizations to support this effort. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027

Potentially Related to: 2020-076, 2021-337

Other bills of interest

[ML 2024, Chapter 110](#) Article 2, (Omnibus Labor and Industry policy bill)

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 177.42, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **Project.** "Project" means demolition, erection, construction, alteration, improvement, restoration, remodeling, or repairing of a public building, structure, facility, land, or other public work, which includes any work suitable for and intended for use by the public, or for the public benefit, financed in whole or part by state funds. Project also includes demolition, erection, construction, alteration, improvement, restoration, remodeling, or repairing of a building, structure, facility, land, or public work when the acquisition of property, predesign, design, or demolition is financed in whole or part by state funds.

Potentially Related to: Prevailing Wage