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# HOUSE FILE NO. 1967

## *FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT*

March 23, 2009

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment Policy and Oversight

March 30, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on Finance

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*Referred by Chair to Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division.*

March 31, 2009

*Returned to the Committee on Finance as Amended.*

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; appropriating money to develop a framework for  
1.3 expenditures from the parks and trails fund.

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

1.5 Section 1. **STATE AND REGIONAL PARKS AND TRAILS FRAMEWORK.**

1.6 (a) \$250,000 in fiscal year 2010 is appropriated from the parks and trails fund to  
1.7 the commissioner of natural resources for a collaborative project to develop a 25-year  
1.8 framework for the use of the money available in the parks and trails fund under the  
1.9 Minnesota Constitution, article XI, section 15, and other traditional sources of funding.  
1.10 The collaborative project shall consist of a joint effort between representatives of the  
1.11 commissioner of natural resources, the Metropolitan Council and its implementing  
1.12 agencies, the Central Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Coordinating Board, and  
1.13 regional parks and trails organizations outside the metropolitan area. The members shall  
1.14 prepare a ten-year strategic parks and trails coordination plan and develop a 25-year  
1.15 framework for use of the funding that includes goals and measurable outcomes and  
1.16 includes a vision for Minnesotans of what the state and regional parks will look like in  
1.17 25 years.

1.18 (b) In developing the coordination plan and framework, the members shall utilize a  
1.19 process, including Web site survey tools and regional listening sessions, to be staffed by  
1.20 the commissioner, that ensures that citizens are included in development and finalization  
1.21 of the final plan and framework. The commissioner, council, and board shall provide for  
1.22 input from user groups and local and regional park and trail organizations.

1.23 (c) The plan and framework must include:

1.24 (1) a proposed definition of "parks and trails of regional significance";

- 2.1 (2) a plan to increase the number of visitors to state and regional parks;
- 2.2 (3) a plan for serving areas with limited access to state parks, including identifying
- 2.3 the potential for county collaboration;
- 2.4 (4) budgeting for ongoing maintenance;
- 2.5 (5) decommissions;
- 2.6 (6) a plan for trails that takes into account connectivity and the potential for use
- 2.7 by commuters;
- 2.8 (7) requirements for local contribution; and
- 2.9 (8) benchmarks, beginning no later than July 1, 2014.
- 2.10 (d) The commissioner shall submit the ten-year plan and 25-year framework in a
- 2.11 report to the legislature no later than October 1, 2010.