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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

A bill for an act

relating to clean water; establishing a grant program to clean up contaminated

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

н. ғ. №. 2535

03/14/2019 Authored by Pierson, Sundin, Ecklund, Dehn, Torkelson and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

tax-forfeited property; appropriating money.

1.4	BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
1.5	Section 1. ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION; TAX-FORFEITED PROPERTIES;
1.6	PILOT PROGRAM.
1.7	Subdivision 1. Definitions. (a) For the purposes of this section, the terms in this
1.8	subdivision have the meanings given.
1.9	(b) "Commissioner" means the commissioner of employment and economic development.
1.10	(c) "Hazardous substance" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 115B.02,
1.11	subdivision 8.
1.12	(d) "Petroleum" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 115C.02,
1.13	subdivision 10.
1.14	(e) "Pollutant or contaminant" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section
1.15	115B.02, subdivision 13.
1.16	(f) "Release" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 115B.02, subdivision
1.17	<u>15.</u>
1.18	(g) "Tank" has the meaning given in Minnesota Statutes, section 115C.02, subdivision
1.19	<u>14.</u>

Section 1.

Subd. 2. Pilot project; grants. The commissioner must establish a pilot project to awar	rd
grants to counties to remediate tax-forfeited properties contaminated by a release or	
threatened release of a hazardous substance or a pollutant or contaminant.	
Subd. 3. Eligible expenditures. (a) A grant awarded to a county under this section ma	<u>ay</u>
be expended for:	
(1) cleaning up or removing a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance of	or
a pollutant or contaminant from a tax-forfeited property;	
(2) costs for assessing, testing, and monitoring associated with cleaning up or removing	1g
a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance or a pollutant or contaminant from	m
a tax-forfeited property; and	
(3) transporting a hazardous substance or a pollutant or contaminant off site, or storing	g,
treating, destroying, or securing disposition of the substance or the pollutant or contaminar	nt
off site, if the commissioner determines that the actions are necessary to protect public	
health or welfare.	
(b) The expenditures allowed under this subdivision apply to cleaning up or removing	g
a release or threatened release of petroleum only if:	
(1) the release or threatened release is from a tank; and	
(2) the cleanup or removal is ineligible to receive reimbursement under Minnesota	
Statutes, chapter 115C.	
Subd. 4. Application. A county seeking a grant under this section must file an application	on
with the commissioner on a form prescribed by the commissioner. The application must	
contain, at a minimum:	
(1) a description of the tax-forfeited property;	
(2) the results of any testing or monitoring indicating the presence of a hazardous	
substance or a pollutant or contaminant on the tax-forfeited property or the reason for	
suspecting that a hazardous substance or a pollutant or contaminant is present on the	
tax-forfeited property;	
(3) a proposed remediation plan describing any assessment and removal activities	
proposed;	
(4) the estimated cost of the proposed remediation plan;	
(5) the source and amount of nongrant money that will be contributed to the remediation	<u>on</u>
plan; and	

Section 1. 2

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3.1	(6) any other information required by the commissioner.
3.2	Subd. 5. Awarding grants. In awarding grants under this section, the commissioner
3.3	may modify a county's proposed remediation plan.
3.4	Subd. 6. Limitations. (a) No county may be awarded more than one grant per year under
3.5	this section.
3.6	(b) A grant awarded under this section may not exceed 85 percent of the estimated cost
3.7	of the proposed remediation plan.
3.8	Subd. 7. Expiration. This section expires June 30, 2021.
3.9	Sec. 2. APPROPRIATION.
3.10	\$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2021 are appropriated from
3.11	the clean water fund to the commissioner of employment and economic development for
3.12	awarding grants under section 1. If the appropriation for either year is insufficient, the

Sec. 2. 3

appropriation for the other year is available for it.

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