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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 2657

03/21/2019 Authored by Fischer
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to water; appropriating money to keep water on the land.

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

1.4 Section 1. APPROPRIATIONS; KEEPING WATER ON THE LAND.

1.5 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the fund to the Board of Water
1.6 and Soil Resources to develop, in cooperation with the commissioners of agriculture, natural
1.7 resources, and the Pollution Control Agency, a statewide action plan for keeping water on
1.8 the land to improve water retention, reduce erosion and loading of pollutants through excess
1.9 water runoff, and improve agricultural productivity. The plan must:

1.10 (1) identify the most efficient best management practices for keeping water on the land
1.11 and identify incentives to implement the practices at priority locations;

1.12 (2) identify methods for encouraging greater state and local government cooperation
1.13 with the agricultural industry;

1.14 (3) include methods for promoting existing programs and incentives to leverage state
1.15 and federal funds to maximize landowner enrollment in conservation programs, including
1.16 adoption of best management practices, cover crops, and conservation easements; and

1.17 (4) include methods and identify funding needs to promote, encourage, and enhance
1.18 watershed-scale pollutant trading and banking programs for storm water and wastewater
1.19 using existing authorities.

2.1 The board must submit the plan to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house
2.2 of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over agriculture
2.3 and the environment and natural resources by January 15, 2020.

2.4 (b) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the general fund to accelerate local
2.5 implementation of programs funded by the clean water fund by providing additional technical
2.6 assistance. Of this amount, \$..... is to the Board of Water and Soil Resources and \$..... is
2.7 to the commissioner of agriculture.

2.8 (c) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the fund to the commissioner of
2.9 the Pollution Control Agency to accelerate implementation of efficient water quality trading
2.10 options.

2.11 (d) \$..... in fiscal year 2020 is appropriated from the fund to the commissioner of
2.12 natural resources to assess the amount of drainage in the state, including tile drainage and
2.13 drainage ditch use, and study the hydrological impacts.

2.14 (e) The appropriations in the section are onetime and available until June 30, 2021.