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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 4409

02/28/2024

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to environment; establishing a grant program for pilot projects to encourage
1.3 and increase composting in multifamily buildings; requiring a report; appropriating
1.4 money; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 115A.

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

1.6 Section 1. [115A.5591] COMPOSTING; MULTIFAMILY BUILDINGS;
1.7 COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Definitions. For the purposes of this section, the following terms have
1.9 the meanings given:

1.10 (1) "composting" means the controlled biological decomposition of organic materials,
1.11 including food waste, fish and animal waste, plant materials, and certain types of
1.12 nonrecyclable paper, into material that can be used to enrich soil and plants; and

1.13 (2) "multifamily building" means an apartment facility containing four or more dwelling
1.14 units, each to be rented by a person or family for use as a residence.

1.15 Subd. 2. Grant program established. The commissioner must establish a competitive
1.16 grant program to provide financial assistance to develop and implement pilot projects that
1.17 encourage and increase composting by residents of multifamily buildings in areas where
1.18 compost is not collected at curbside. Each grant must include an educational component on
1.19 the methods and benefits of composting.

1.20 Subd. 3. Eligible applicants. A grant may be awarded under this section to:

1.21 (1) a political subdivision;

1.22 (2) an owner of a multifamily building; or

2.1 (3) an organization that is exempt from taxation under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
 2.2 Revenue Code.

2.3 Subd. 4. **Application.** The commissioner must develop forms and procedures for
 2.4 soliciting and reviewing applications for grants under this section.

2.5 Subd. 5. **Account established.** (a) A multifamily building composting grant program
 2.6 account is established in the special revenue account in the state treasury. The commissioner
 2.7 must credit to the account appropriations and transfers to the account. Earnings, such as
 2.8 interest, dividends, and any other earnings arising from assets of the account, must be
 2.9 credited to the account. Money remaining in the account at the end of a fiscal year does not
 2.10 cancel to the general fund, but remains in the account. The commissioner must manage the
 2.11 account.

2.12 (b) Money in the account is appropriated to the commissioner and may be used only to:

2.13 (1) provide grants as specified in this section; and

2.14 (2) reimburse the reasonable expenses of the Pollution Control Agency in administering
 2.15 the grant program.

2.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.17 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION.**

2.18 (a) \$5,000,000 in fiscal year 2025 is appropriated from the general fund to the
 2.19 commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency to make grants for pilot projects that
 2.20 encourage composting by residents of multifamily buildings under Minnesota Statutes,
 2.21 section 115A.5591. This is a onetime appropriation and is available until June 30, 2027.

2.22 (b) The commissioner must submit a report on the grants awarded under Minnesota
 2.23 Statutes, section 115A.5591, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the senate and
 2.24 house of representatives committees with primary jurisdiction over environment policy and
 2.25 finance. The report must contain, at a minimum, a list of grantees, the amount of each grant
 2.26 award, the activities undertaken with grant funds, and, if possible, the results of the grant
 2.27 with respect to encouraging composting in multifamily buildings. The report is due by the
 2.28 earlier of October 1, 2027, or three months after the appropriation in this section is exhausted.