

Legislative Summary

SF2527 – M.S. 2016 Chapter 172

Changes in the final SF2527 bill to the original LSOHC recommended language were minimal. Those changes that exist are listed below:

- The Total Appropriation amount, after adjustment for the decrease in the February Forecast, ended up being \$109,847,000, leaving an approximately 5.1% reserve.
- Subd. 3(b) “Jackpine Forest/Crow Wing River Watershed Habitat Acquisition” had two changes.
 - Wadena county was excluded (leaving only Hubbard and Cass Counties)
 - The terms “for county forest purposes” were added to the appropriation language.
- Subd. 3(j) “Protecting Forest Wildlife Habitat in the Wild Rice River Watershed” was appropriated at \$2,188,000 with the following language:

As a condition of receiving the grant under this paragraph, the White Earth Band of Ojibwe shall:

(1) ensure that current access roads and trails on the property are maintained and open to continue the current access to adjoining lands;

(2) ensure that the property remains open to hunting and fishing for individuals of the public who are not members of a federally recognized tribe in a manner consistent with current law; and

(3) not transfer fee interest in whole or in part to the United States either directly or through an intermediary in trust for the White Earth Band of Ojibwe.

Failure to comply with the provisions of this paragraph shall trigger the reversion provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.056, subdivision 15.

- Subd. 11 “Carryforward of Appropriation” was added providing a one year extension of appropriation availability (until June 30, 2017) for ML2013, Chap. 137, Art. 1, Sec. 2, Subd. 5(b) “Habitat Protection in Dakota County – Phase IV”
- Section 3, M.S. 2014, Sec.97A.056, Subd. 2 (regarding LSOHC make-up and operations) was amended in two places as follows:
 - (g) ~~The first meeting of the council shall be convened by the chair of the Legislative Coordinating Commission no later than December 1, 2008.~~ Members shall elect a chair, vice-chair, secretary, and other officers as determined by the council. The chair may convene meetings as necessary to conduct the duties prescribed by this section.
 - (h) ~~Upon coordination with~~ The Legislative Coordinating Commission, ~~the council~~ may appoint nonpartisan staff and contract with consultants as necessary to ~~carry out support~~ the functions of the council. The council has final approval authority for the hiring of a candidate for executive director. Up to one percent of the money appropriated from the fund may be used to pay for administrative expenses of the council and for compensation and expense reimbursement of council members.

Evaluations Recommendations Amendment
Offered by Representative Phyllis Kahn (May 2016)

“By January 15, 2017, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council must submit recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over the environment and natural resources and the outdoor heritage fund on methods to evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of projects funded by the outdoor heritage fund in achieving the purposes under article XI, section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, including recommendations on the amount of funds that should be spent annually on evaluation”