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# HOUSE FILE No. 2731

## *FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT*

February 12, 2008

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Finance

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*Referred by Chair to Watersheds, Wetlands and Buffers Subcommittee.  
Feb/19/2008  
Returned to the Environment and Natural Resources Finance Division as Amended.*

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to capital improvements; appropriating money for the Board of Water  
1.3 and Soil Resources statewide projects; authorizing the sale and issuance of  
1.4 state bonds.

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

1.6 Section 1. **APPROPRIATION.**

1.7 \$54,290,000 is appropriated from the bond proceeds fund to the Board of Water and  
1.8 Soil Resources for capital improvement projects statewide, for the purposes specified  
1.9 in this section.

1.10 (a) \$43,600,000 is to acquire conservation easements from landowners to restore  
1.11 and preserve wetlands and riparian lands in order to protect soil and water quality and to  
1.12 support fish and wildlife habitat and other public benefits. The provisions of Minnesota  
1.13 Statutes, section 103F.515, apply to this appropriation, except that the board may establish  
1.14 alternative payment rates for easements and practices to establish native vegetation. Of  
1.15 this appropriation, \$3,600,000 is to administer the program.

1.16 (b) \$2,400,000 of this amount is to be available for use in the area designated for  
1.17 relief and recovery from the flooding that occurred on or after August 18, 2007, in the  
1.18 area of southeast Minnesota designated under Presidential Declaration of Major Disaster,  
1.19 DR-1717. Funds previously appropriated and waivers previously authorized to the Board  
1.20 of Water and Soil Resources for DR-1717 flood relief and recovery in Laws 2007, First  
1.21 Special Session chapter 2, are available and applicable until June 30, 2010.

1.22 (c) \$9,840,000 is to acquire land for wetland restoration or preservation to replace  
1.23 wetlands drained or filled as a result of the repair or rehabilitation, reconstruction, or  
1.24 replacement of existing public roads as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 103G.222,

2.1 subdivision 1, paragraphs (l) and (m). Of this appropriation, \$1,440,000 is to administer  
2.2 the program.

2.3 The purchase price paid for acquisition of land, fee, or perpetual easement must be  
2.4 the fair market value as determined by the board. The board may enter into agreements  
2.5 with the federal government, other state agencies, political subdivisions, and nonprofit  
2.6 organizations or fee owners to acquire land and restore and create wetlands or to acquire  
2.7 wetland banking credits. Acquisition of or the conveyance of land may be in the name of  
2.8 the political subdivision.

2.9 (d) \$850,000 is to acquire conservation easements, reroute County Ditch 23A,  
2.10 design and construct water control structures and pumping infrastructure, and plant  
2.11 native vegetation in order to restore the Grass Lake prairie wetland basin adjacent to  
2.12 the city of Willmar in Kandiyohi County. This amount must be matched by funding  
2.13 from other sources.

2.14 Sec. 2. **BOND SALE.**

2.15 To provide the money appropriated in section 1 from the bond proceeds fund,  
2.16 the commissioner of finance shall sell and issue bonds of the state in an amount up to  
2.17 \$54,290,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with the effect prescribed by Minnesota  
2.18 Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the Minnesota Constitution, article XI,  
2.19 sections 4 to 7.

2.20 Sec. 3. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

2.21 Sections 1 and 2 are effective the day following final enactment.