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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 615

02/14/2013 Authored by Ward, J.A.; Fischer; Johnson, S.; Hansen; Radinovich and others

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

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to capital investment; appropriating money for Reinvest in Minnesota  
1.3 (RIM) Conservation Reserve; authorizing the sale and issuance of state bonds.  
1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.5 Section 1. **REINVEST IN MINNESOTA (RIM) CONSERVATION RESERVE.**

1.6 Subdivision 1. **Appropriation.** (a) \$30,000,000 is appropriated from the bond  
1.7 proceeds fund to the Board of Soil and Water Resources to acquire conservation easements  
1.8 from landowners to preserve, restore, create, and enhance wetlands and prairie grasslands;  
1.9 restore and enhance rivers and streams, riparian lands, and associated uplands in order to  
1.10 protect soil and water quality; support fish and wildlife habitat; reduce flood damage; and  
1.11 provide other public benefits. The provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515,  
1.12 apply to this appropriation, except that the board may establish alternative payment rates  
1.13 for easements and practices to establish restored native prairies, as defined in Minnesota  
1.14 Statutes, section 84.02, subdivision 5, and to protect uplands. Of this appropriation, up to  
1.15 ten percent may be used to implement the program.

1.16 (b) The board is authorized to enter into new agreements and amend past agreements  
1.17 with landowners as required by Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 5, to  
1.18 allow for restoration, including overseeding and harvesting of native prairie vegetation  
1.19 for use for energy production in a manner that does not devalue the natural habitat,  
1.20 water quality benefits, or carbon sequestration functions of the area enrolled in the  
1.21 easement. This shall occur after seed production and minimize impacts on wildlife. Of  
1.22 this appropriation, up to five percent may be used for restoration, including overseeding.

2.1 (c) The board shall give priority to leveraging federal funds by (1) enrolling targeted  
2.2 new lands eligible for the USDA Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP) or (2) enrolling lands  
2.3 that have expiring USDA Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts.

2.4 Subd. 2. **Bond sale.** To provide the money appropriated in this section from the  
2.5 bond proceeds fund, the commissioner of management and budget shall sell and issue  
2.6 bonds of the state in an amount up to \$30,000,000 in the manner, upon the terms, and with  
2.7 the effect prescribed by Minnesota Statutes, sections 16A.631 to 16A.675, and by the  
2.8 Minnesota Constitution, article XI, sections 4 to 7.

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