

CHAPTER 116E

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION BOARD

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116E.01 POLICY.

It is the policy of the state of Minnesota to encourage development of life values and a style of living which fosters the constructive use, rather than exploitation of natural resources and the environment, and to promote coordination among various groups and institutions developing and distributing environmental education materials, including but not limited to formal and nonformal education, pre-kindergarten, kindergarten through grade twelve, post-secondary, vocational, college and adult education. It is in the public interest that there be established a state environmental education board and hereinafter described regional environmental education councils.

History: 1973 c 558 s 1; 1975 c 271 s 6

116E.02 ESTABLISHMENT.

Subdivision 1. Membership; terms. A state environmental education board, designated as the environmental education board, is hereby created. Regional environmental education councils, subordinate to the environmental education board and designated as regional environmental education councils are hereby created to represent the regions of the state designated by the governor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 462.385. The state board shall consist of 6 members to be appointed by the governor with the advice and consent of the senate, and one member from each of the regional councils. Each regional council shall elect one member to serve on the state board. Regional councils shall consist of 12 members, appointed by the chairman of the state board with approval of the state board, with at least one person representing each of the following groups: (a) public school systems having grade levels kindergarten through 12, inclusive; (b) post-secondary educational institutions; (c) regional economic development commissions, where established; (d) voluntary organizations; (e) business, industry and agriculture; (f) labor organizations; and (g) elected local government officers. The term of a member of a regional council shall begin on July 1 and shall extend for a four year term and until his successor is duly appointed and qualifies. A vacancy in the office of a member of any regional council shall be filled by the appointing authority, for the unexpired term.

The regional environmental education council corresponding to the metropolitan area regional development commission as designated by the governor pursuant to section 462.385 shall consist of one member from each of the five task forces hereafter created and seven public members. One task force consisting of seven members shall be appointed by the chairman of the state board with the approval of the board to represent each of the following five geographic areas: the city of Minneapolis; the remainder of Hennepin county; Carver, Scott and Dakota counties; Ramsey county; and Anoka and Washington counties. Each task force shall select one of its members to serve on the metropolitan regional environmental education council. Members of the task forces shall be compensated and shall have terms similar to those of the regional environmental education councils. The foregoing task forces shall commence their functions on July 1, 1977; however, they may not select members for the state boards until July 1, 1978.

Subd. 2. **First board.** The first state environmental education board shall consist of (a) the following members to be appointed by the governor: (i) seven members whose term shall expire on July 1, 1975; (ii) six members whose term shall expire on July 1, 1976; and (b) the following members to be elected, one from each of the regional councils: (i) one member from each of six regional councils whose term shall expire July 1, 1975, and (ii) one member from each of six regional councils whose term shall expire on July 1, 1976. In the event that any regional council is unorganized, the governor may appoint one person from such unorganized region to serve on the state board.

Subd. 2a. The membership terms, compensation, removal of members, and filling of vacancies on the state board shall be as provided in section 15.0575.

Subd. 3. **Qualifications of members.** The membership of the state board and regional councils shall be broadly representative of the skills and experience necessary to effectuate the policies of sections 116E.01 to 116E.04.

Subd. 4. **Officers and compensation.** The state board and each regional council shall select a chairman and such other officers as they deem necessary. Members of the regional councils shall serve without compensation, but each member of the the regional councils may be reimbursed for actual and necessary expenses incurred in the performance of his duties.

History: 1973 c 558 s 2; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1976 c 134 s 30-32; 1976 c 149 s 23

NOTE: The last sentence of Laws 1976, Chapter 134, Section 30, which amends subdivision 1, reads:

"A vacancy in the office of a member of any regional council shall be filled by the chairman of the state council with the approval of the state council, for the unexpired term."

116E.03 POWERS AND DUTIES.

Subdivision 1. **Generally.** The environmental education board shall operate under the general supervision of the commissioner of natural resources. The environmental education board shall submit its budget to the commissioner each year for review and approval. Twice each year the state environmental education board shall report to the commissioner on the status of its programs and operations. In addition to any powers or duties otherwise prescribed by law and without limiting the same, the state environmental education board shall have the powers and duties hereinafter specified.

Subd. 2. **Planning.** The state board shall prepare and from time to time revise a plan for environmental education within the state or part thereof.

Subd. 3. **Advise legislature and governor.** The state board shall advise the legislature and the governor concerning the status of environmental education in the state and give its recommendations concerning the subject.

Subd. 4. **Relating to regional environmental education councils.** The state board shall coordinate the activities of the regional environmental education councils and shall adopt rules and regulations relating to the activities of regional councils to assure that such activities are consistent with the state board's plan for environmental education throughout the state. At least half of the money spent by the state board and regional councils shall be for cooperation with and service for other groups, agencies, and institutions for the dissemination of environmental information.

Subd. 5. **Studies and reports.** The state board may prepare studies and reports on the subject of environmental education as necessary to fulfill its responsibilities under sections 116E.01 to 116E.04.

Subd. 6. **Delegation to regional councils.** The state board may, pursuant to a written agreement with a regional council, delegate its authority as provided herein to any regional council created and organized under authority of sections 116E.01 to 116E.04.

Subd. 7. **Employment of staff.** The state board and the regional councils may employ such administrative and clerical staff as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the state board and regional councils as described in sections 116E.01 to 116E.04, including, but not limited to, an executive director to represent and manage the affairs of the state board, and/or regional councils, as the case may be. In addition, the state board and regional councils may employ and fix the compensation of such experts and consultants as may be necessary to carry out their functions under sections 116E.01 to 116E.04.

Subd. 7a. **Executive director.** The executive director of the state board shall be experienced in the administration of environment-related programs. All employees serving the board shall be in the classified civil service of the state. This subdivision shall not apply to board employees serving on July 1, 1976.

Subd. 8. **Contracts.** The chief administrative officer of the state board may contract with persons, firms, corporations, organizations, units of government or institutions of higher learning for doing any of the work of his office, and none of the provisions of chapter 16, relating to bids, shall apply to such contracts. The regional councils may contract with the regional development commissions designated by the governor pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1971, Section 462.385, to accomplish the purposes of sections 116E.01 to 116E.04. All personnel employed and all contracts entered into pursuant to this subdivision shall be subject to the approval of the state board. Agreements to exercise delegated powers shall be by written order filed with the secretary of state.

Subd. 9. **Private grant and federal funds.** The chief administrative officer of the state board is the state agent to apply for, receive, and disburse private grant and federal funds made available to the state by private organizations or federal law or rules and regulations promulgated thereunder for any purpose related to the powers and duties of the state board or the regional councils. He shall comply with any and all requirements of such private organizations or federal law or such rules and regulations promulgated thereunder to enable him to apply for, receive, and disburse such funds. All such moneys received by the chief administrative officer of the state board shall be deposited in the state treasury and are hereby annually appropriated to him for the purposes for which they are received. None of such moneys in the state treasury shall cancel and they shall be available for expenditure in accordance with the requirements of federal law or the terms of such private grants. No application for federal funds or private grants under this subdivision shall be submitted to federal authorities or private organizations for approval unless the proposed budget for the expenditure of such funds is approved by the governor and reported to the legislative committees designated in section 16.165 and, when the legislature is not in session, reported to the standing committee on finance of the senate and the standing committee on appropriations of the house of representatives.

History: 1973 c 558 s 3; 1975 c 271 s 6; 1976 c 149 s 24,25; 1978 c 768 s 1; 1979 c 333 s 85

116E.035 PUBLIC EDUCATION ON ACID PRECIPITATION.

The Minnesota environmental education board shall conduct a program of public education on acid precipitation. The board shall report on the progress of the program to the respective chairmen of the house committee on environment and natural resources and the senate committee on agriculture and natural resources by January 15, 1981.

History: 1980 c 490 s 3

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116E.04 COOPERATION.

Subdivision 1. All state departments and agencies are hereby directed to cooperate with the state board and the regional councils and assist them in the performance of their duties; and the state board and regional councils shall cooperate with other departments and agencies of the state, with regional economic development commissions, with municipalities, with other states, with the federal government and its agencies and instrumentalities, in the public interest and in order to coordinate environmental education in the state.

Subd. 2. Upon the request of the state board or a regional council, the governor may, by order, require any department or agency of the state to furnish such assistance to the state board or any regional council as may be necessary to carry out their functions under sections 116E.01 to 116E.04. The governor may, in his order, direct all or part of the cost or expense of such assistance to be paid from the state board fund or appropriation in such amount as he may deem just and proper.

History: 1973 c 558 s 4; 1975 c 271 s 6