



Laws 2026, Chapter 126 – Environment Finance Omnibus (S.F. No. 2077)

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ARTICLE 1 – OUTDOOR HERITAGE FUND

Section 1 and 2 [Appropriations] appropriate \$191,081,000 from the outdoor heritage fund in fiscal year 2027 to various projects (see accompanying spreadsheet).

Section 3 [Public LSOHC Member Term Limits] imposes eight year term limits on public members of the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC). Makes technical changes in response to the changes made by section 4.

Section 4 [Executive Director Hiring] allows a quorum of the LSOHC to discuss, interview, and select candidates for executive director in a closed meeting.

Section 5 [Carp Barrier Design Extension] extends by one year (to June 30, 2027) the date by which design of a barrier on the Mississippi River to protect the upper river from invasive carp must be completed.

Section 6 [Term Limits Effective Date] clarifies that years served on the LSOHC prior to the effective date of Section 3 count for purposes of determining when a public member has reached the applicable term limit. Allows current members to serve out the rest of their term regardless of whether they have reached the term limit.

ARTICLE 2 – PARKS AND TRAILS FUND

Section 1 [Regional Parks and Trails District Plans] removes requirement that plans of regional parks and trails districts outside of the metropolitan area meet protocols and criteria set forth in the Minnesota regional parks and trails strategic plan. Removes requirement to hold a public hearing prior to adopting those plans.

Section 2 [GMPTC Recommendations] authorizes the Greater Minnesota Regional Parks and Trails Commission (GMPTC) to recommend grants for “projects” instead of being limited to making recommendations about “parks and trails.”

Section 3 [Term of GMPTC Chair] makes the chair of the GMPTC an officer that is elected every two years instead of annually.

Section 4 [Contents of Legislative Recommendations] requires recommendations in the annual GMPTC report to the legislature to be grouped into recommendations by regional parks and trails district. Repeals a requirement that the recommendations be in priority order.

Section 5 [Appropriation Extensions] extends various previous appropriations from the parks and trails fund.

Section 6 [Repealer] repeals outdated language that governed the initial appointments and meetings of the GMPTC.

ARTICLE 3 – ARTS AND CULTURAL HERITAGE FUND

Section 1 [St. Paul Cultural Art Installation Modification] modifies a previous appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund to provide that the grant is a grant to the city of St. Paul. Extends the availability of the appropriation by one year, to June 30, 2028.

ARTICLE 4 – STATE LANDS

Section 1 [DNR Leases Do Not Require Appraisals] exempts Department of Natural Resources (DNR) leases of property as a tenant from the requirement that DNR obtain an appraisal before acquiring an interest in real property.

Section 2 [Authority to Acquire Access Easements for Stream Easements] authorizes the DNR to acquire easements to access stream easements.

Section 3 [Authority to Acquire Access Easements for Native Prairie] authorizes the DNR to acquire easements to access native prairie.

Section 4 [DNR Electronic Licensing System Effective Date Change] modifies the effective date for the new Department of Resources electronic licensing system to acknowledge that different components of the system will be ready for implementation at different times.

Section 5 [Additions to State Park Boundaries] adds to the boundaries of Frontenac and Great River Bluffs State Parks.

Section 6 [Deletion of Land from State Park Boundaries] removes 19.2 acres from the boundaries of Mille Lacs Kathio State Park to facilitate expansion of a cemetery by the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe.

Sections 7 through 14 [Land Sale Authority] authorizes the DNR to sell or convey certain state lands in Becker, Mille Lacs, Pine, Redwood, St. Louis, Wabasha, and Washington Counties. Authority for the sales is required because the parcels either border public waters, will be sold by private sale, or will be conveyed for no consideration.

Section 15 [ELS Appropriation Extension] extends the availability of a previous appropriation for the DNR electronic licensing system to June 30, 2027.

Section 16 [Effective Date] makes sections 4 through 15 effective the day following final enactment.

ARTICLE 5 – AGRICULTURAL UTILIZATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Section 1 [AURI Legal Costs] appropriations \$80,000 in fiscal year 2026 from the general fund to the Agricultural Utilization Research Institute for legal costs.

ARTICLE 6 – IRON ORE MINING; UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Section 1 [Unemployment Benefits] Iron ore mining additional unemployment benefits program. Extends unemployment benefits through March 20, 2027, for iron ore mining workers subject to mass layoffs on or after November 1, 2025, and before March 15, 2026. On top of the regular 26 weeks of unemployment benefits, an applicant is eligible for additional weeks of benefits if they earned at least 50 percent of their wage credits from an employer in the iron ore mining industry or related explosives manufacturing industry and were laid off by that employer. Eligible applicants would have to meet regular eligibility criteria.



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