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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 2864

05/01/2019 Authored by Davnie, Hansen, Becker-Finn, Freiberg, Persell and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Government Operations

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; creating Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office;
1.3 proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 116U.

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

1.5 Section 1. [116U.60] MINNESOTA OUTDOOR RECREATION OFFICE.

1.6 Subdivision 1. Office established. The Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office is
1.7 established as an office in Explore Minnesota Tourism. The governor, in consultation with
1.8 the commissioners of natural resources and employment and economic development, must
1.9 appoint the director of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office.

1.10 Subd. 2. Purpose. The purpose of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office is to promote
1.11 and increase participation in outdoor recreation by all Minnesota citizens by:

1.12 (1) supporting the outdoor recreation economy of Minnesota and working toward
1.13 equitable and inclusive access to the outdoors;

1.14 (2) creating and developing an inventory of existing public and private resources
1.15 promoting outdoor recreation;

1.16 (3) coordinating outdoor recreation policy and management among state and federal
1.17 agencies and local government entities;

1.18 (4) assisting in promoting and marketing opportunities and events for outdoor recreation;

1.19 (5) assisting the Department of Employment and Economic Development in supporting
1.20 outdoor recreation businesses and providing technical assistance with resources and
1.21 opportunities for economic development;

2.1 (6) developing strategies to recruit and grow outdoor recreation businesses and to enhance
 2.2 recreation-related employment in Minnesota;

2.3 (7) promoting outdoor recreation opportunities for people with disabilities;

2.4 (8) promoting education and use of outdoor recreation assets to enhance public health;

2.5 (9) supporting outdoor recreation programs at Minnesota educational institutions;

2.6 (10) collecting data on the impact of outdoor recreation in the state and the accessibility
 2.7 of natural resources for underserved populations; and

2.8 (11) recommending initiatives to increase access to outdoor recreational amenities and
 2.9 experiences.

2.10 Subd. 3. **Account; donations.** The director of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office
 2.11 may accept gifts and grants for purposes related to the duties of the Minnesota Outdoor
 2.12 Recreation Office. Money received by the director from gifts and grants is deposited in an
 2.13 account in the special revenue fund and appropriated to the director for the purposes specified
 2.14 in the gift or grant.

2.15 Subd. 4. **Strategic plan.** By January 15, 2020, the director of the Minnesota Outdoor
 2.16 Recreation Office must submit a report to the chairs and ranking minority members of the
 2.17 house of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over Explore
 2.18 Minnesota Tourism and environment and natural resources policy and finance that contains
 2.19 a strategic plan for the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office. In developing the strategic
 2.20 plan, the director must consult with the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council; the
 2.21 commissioners of natural resources, health, transportation, and employment and economic
 2.22 development; and the chairs and ranking minority members or their designees of the house
 2.23 of representatives and senate committees and divisions with jurisdiction over Explore
 2.24 Minnesota Tourism and environment and natural resources policy and finance.

2.25 Subd. 5. **Consultation and cooperation.** (a) The director of the Minnesota Outdoor
 2.26 Recreation Office must consult with the Explore Minnesota Tourism Council in carrying
 2.27 out the purposes of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office.

2.28 (b) Explore Minnesota Tourism and the commissioners of natural resources, health,
 2.29 transportation, and employment and economic development must cooperate with the director
 2.30 of the Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office in fulfilling the duties of the Minnesota Outdoor
 2.31 Recreation Office as they relate to the purposes of the respective office or agencies.

2.32 Subd. 6. **Report.** By January 1, 2021, and each year thereafter, the director of the
 2.33 Minnesota Outdoor Recreation Office must submit an annual report to the legislature on

- 3.1 the donations received, accomplishments, recommendations, and findings of the Minnesota
- 3.2 Outdoor Recreation Office from the preceding fiscal year.
- 3.3 Subd. 7. **Regulatory authority.** Nothing contained in this section supplants or impacts
- 3.4 the regulatory authority of other state agencies.