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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4506

03/23/2022

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to environment; appropriating money for research to analyze impact of
1.3 weather trends on agriculture, forests, and infrastructure; requiring a report.

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

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; MITIGATING EFFECTS OF PROJECTED
1.6 WEATHER TRENDS ON AGRICULTURE, FORESTS, AND INFRASTRUCTURE.

1.7 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
1.8 of administration to contract with the Institute on the Environment at the University of
1.9 Minnesota to conduct research to determine how:

1.10 (1) projected future weather conditions in the state may exacerbate conditions such as
1.11 drought, elevated temperatures, and flooding to the point where the ability of natural systems
1.12 to mitigate those conditions is weakened; and

1.13 (2) human intervention may be required to rectify the imbalance through changes in
1.14 design, operation, and scale of infrastructure and agricultural and forest management practices
1.15 in order to:

1.16 (i) maintain and extend infrastructure lifespan and reduce infrastructure maintenance
1.17 and repair costs;

1.18 (ii) maintain and increase the amount and quality of food and wood production;

1.19 (iii) reduce fire risk on forested land;

1.20 (iv) maintain and enhance water quality; and

1.21 (v) maintain and enhance natural habitats.

2.1 (b) The contract must provide that, no later than February 1, 2024, the director of the
2.2 Institute on the Environment submit a written report to the chairs and ranking minority
2.3 members of the legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over environment policy
2.4 and capital investment summarizing the findings and recommendations of the research,
2.5 including any recommendations for legislation.

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