

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 3479

(SENATE AUTHORS: WESTROM and Dornink)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/24/2022	5129	Introduction and first reading Referred to Agriculture and Rural Development Finance and Policy
03/02/2022	5191	Author added Dornink
03/14/2022		Comm report: To pass as amended and re-refer to Finance

1.1 A bill for an act

1.2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for grants and financial assistance to

1.3 livestock farmers and crop producers impacted by drought; appropriating money

1.4 to the Rural Finance Authority revolving loan account for drought relief;

1.5 appropriating money for veterinary diagnostic laboratory equipment; appropriating

1.6 money for deer farming compensation; appropriating money for transfer to the

1.7 agricultural emergency account.

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

1.9 Section 1. **DROUGHT RELIEF; APPROPRIATION.**

1.10 (a) \$6,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the

1.11 commissioner of agriculture for the purpose of providing grants and other forms of financial

1.12 assistance to livestock farmers and specialty crop producers impacted by the drought in

1.13 2021. For purposes of this section, "specialty crop" means an eligible crop under the United

1.14 States Department of Agriculture's specialty crop block grant program. Of the amount

1.15 appropriated in this paragraph:

1.16 (1) \$5,000,000 is for livestock farmers; and

1.17 (2) \$1,500,000 is for livestock farmers or specialty crop producers. Of the amount

1.18 appropriated in this clause, up to \$100,000 may be used to reimburse livestock farmers for

1.19 expenses not reimbursed through the United States Department of Agriculture Emergency

1.20 Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish (ELAP) program, at a rate of

1.21 \$6.60 per mile used in obtaining or transporting feed or feed ingredients up to 25 miles to

1.22 and from the farm.

1.23 The commissioner may issue payments of up to \$5,000 on a first-come, first-served,

1.24 noncompetitive basis. Eligible producers must be located in counties that were designated

2.1 as a primary natural disaster area by the United States Department of Agriculture between
 2.2 July 20, 2021, and December 31, 2021. Any unencumbered balance at the end of the year
 2.3 does not cancel and is available until June 30, 2024. This is a onetime appropriation.

2.4 (b) \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the Rural
 2.5 Finance Authority revolving loan account established under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.6 41B.06, for drought relief loans under Minnesota Statutes, section 41B.047. If this
 2.7 appropriation exceeds the total amount for which all farmers are eligible in a fiscal year,
 2.8 the balance of the appropriation is available for other programs eligible for funding under
 2.9 the Rural Finance Authority's revolving loan account. Any unencumbered balance at the
 2.10 end of the year does not cancel and is available until June 30, 2024. This is a onetime
 2.11 appropriation.

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

2.13 Sec. 2. **APPROPRIATION; VETERINARY DISEASE TESTING EQUIPMENT.**

2.14 \$1,000,000 in fiscal year 2022 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 2.15 of agriculture for a grant to the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota to purchase
 2.16 equipment for the Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory to test for chronic wasting disease,
 2.17 African swine fever, avian influenza, and other animal diseases. This is a onetime
 2.18 appropriation that is available until June 30, 2023.

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

2.20 Sec. 3. **APPROPRIATION; DEER FARMING COMPENSATION.**

2.21 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner
 2.22 of agriculture to reimburse feed, veterinary, and other expenses incurred, and offset revenue
 2.23 lost by owners of farmed white-tailed deer registered under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.24 34.155, due to movement bans imposed by the commissioner of natural resources in
 2.25 emergency rules between December 2019 and December 2021. The commissioner may use
 2.26 payments of up to \$5,000 on a first-come, first-served, noncompetitive basis. Notwithstanding
 2.27 Minnesota Statutes, section 16A.28, unencumbered balances under this paragraph do not
 2.28 cancel until June 30, 2024.

2.29 Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATION; AGRICULTURAL EMERGENCY ACCOUNT.**

2.30 \$500,000 in fiscal year 2023 is appropriated from the general fund for transfer to the
 2.31 agricultural emergency account in the agricultural fund under Minnesota Statutes, section
 2.32 17.041. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 17.041, the commissioner may spend

- 3.1 money from the agricultural emergency account for the purposes of avian influenza testing
- 3.2 supplies, including but not limited to poultry drinking water tests. This authorization expires
- 3.3 on December 31, 2022. This is a onetime transfer.