

## **S.F. No. 75 – Requirements for conveying easements and leasing state lands modification; state forest and state park modifications; sales and conveyances of certain land authorization**

**Author:** Senator Foungh Hawj

**Prepared by:** Ben Stanley, Senate Counsel (651/296-4793)

**Date:** January 18, 2023

---

NOTE: This bill contains the same lands-related provisions that were included in the 2022 omnibus environment and natural resources conference committee report, which ultimately was not enacted.

**Sections 1 through 3 [DNR Waiver or Assumption of Easement Fees]** allow the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to assume or waive various fees incurred by applicants for easements on DNR-administered land when DNR determines that an easement will benefit the state’s land management interests.

**Section 4 [Lease of DNR Recreational Facilities]** clarifies that DNR’s authority to lease land administered by the department for recreational purposes includes independent authority to lease land for recreational trails on the one hand and recreational facilities on the other. The current statute could be read to authorize leases only where there will be both a trail and facilities.

**Section 5 [Lease of Tax-Forfeited Land Changes]** raises from 10 to 25 the maximum lease term of a county lease of tax-forfeited lands. Raises from \$12,000 to \$50,000 the threshold annual lease value that triggers an obligation to first offer the land at public sale. Allows counties to lease tax-forfeited land for the purpose of developing conservation easements to provide ecosystem services.

**Section 6 [Conveyance of Conservation Easements on Tax-Forfeited Land]** authorizes a county, after consultation with the DNR to convey conservation easements on tax-forfeited land.

**Section 7 [Addition to State Park]** adds 11.5 acres to the boundary of Myre-Big Island State Park (Freeborn County) to facilitate the acquisition of an adjacent parcel.

**Section 8 [Deletion from State Forest]** removes 482 acres of land from the boundary of Cloquet Valley State Forest (St. Louis County) because this land is now part of Riverlands State Forest.

**Section 9 [Addition to State Forest]** adds 121.5 acres to Riverlands State Forest (St. Louis County) that were inadvertently left out of the forest's boundary when it was created.

**Section 10 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Land; Beltrami County]** authorizes Beltrami County to sell certain tax-forfeited land by private sale.

**Section 11 [Public Sale of Surplus Riparian Land; Cass County]** authorizes DNR to sell surplus state land comprising the Agate Rearing Pond AMA in Cass County, which is no longer in use.

**Section 12 [Private Sale of Surplus Land; Crow Wing County]** authorizes DNR to sell 0.17 acres of surplus state land in Crow Wing County by private sale to resolve an encroachment issue.

**Section 13 [Public Sale of Surplus Riparian Land; Fillmore County]** authorizes DNR to sell 9.53 acres of surplus state land bordering the Root River and Watson Creek in Fillmore County.

**Section 14 [Conveyance of Tax-Forfeited Land; Goodhue County]** authorizes Goodhue County to convey 0.33 acres of tax-forfeited land bordering public water to the city of Wanamingo for no consideration.

**Section 15 [Private Sale of Surplus Riparian Land; Hennepin County]** authorizes DNR to sell 0.55 acres of surplus land bordering Long Lake in Hennepin County to a local unit of government for less than fair market value.

**Section 16 [Public Sale of Surplus Riparian Land; Itasca County]** authorizes DNR to sell 59 acres of surplus riparian land comprising Trout Lake Eagle WMA in Itasca County.

**Section 17 [Private Sale of Surplus State Land; Pine County]** authorizes DNR to sell 2 acres of surplus land in Pine County by private sale.

**Section 18 [Exchange of Certain Riparian Land in St. Louis County]** authorizes St. Louis County to exchange certain riparian land in St. Louis County, with the approval of the Land Exchange Board.

**Section 19 [Land Acquisition Trust Fund; St. Louis County]** allows St. Louis County to deposit the proceeds of tax-forfeited land sales into a tax-forfeited land acquisition trust fund and to spend that money to purchase land for forestry, mineral management, or environmental services purposes.

**Section 20 [Private Sale of Tax-Forfeited Lands; St. Louis County]** authorizes St. Louis County to sell by private sale certain tax-forfeited land to address issues caused by incorrect surveys.

**Section 21 [Private Sale of Surplus Riparian Land; Sherburne County]** authorizes DNR to sell 0.05 acres of surplus land bordering public water in Sherburne County by private sale to an adjoining landowner for less than fair market value to resolve a trespass issue.

**Section 22 [Authorization for Adjutant General to Exchange Certain Land; Rosemount]** authorizes the adjutant general of the Minnesota National Guard to exchange certain surplus state land for land within the city of Rosemount with the approval of the Land Exchange Board.

**Section 23 [Repealer]** repeals a sunset on authority for St. Louis County to sell certain tax-forfeited lakeshore lots.