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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 2916

03/27/2025

Authored by Smith

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to agriculture; appropriating money for a southeast regional groundwater
1.3 protection and soil health initiative.

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

1.5 Section 1. APPROPRIATION; SOUTHEAST REGIONAL GROUNDWATER
1.6 PROTECTION AND SOIL HEALTH INITIATIVE.

1.7 (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2026 and \$..... in fiscal year 2027 are appropriated from the
1.8 general fund to the commissioner of agriculture for grants to soil and water conservation
1.9 districts in the counties of Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Houston, Mower, Olmsted,
1.10 Rice, Steele, Wabasha, and Winona to reduce leaching of excess crop nutrients into
1.11 groundwater, immobilize unused nitrogen from the rooting zone, and reduce erosion as part
1.12 of a new southeast regional groundwater protection and soil health initiative.

1.13 (b) Notwithstanding any provision of Minnesota Statutes, section 17.134, to the contrary,
1.14 a soil and water conservation district that receives a grant under this section may use the
1.15 grant to make subgrants for projects that conform to the requirements and limitations of the
1.16 Olmsted County groundwater protection and soil health initiative, including a cover crop
1.17 program, alternative crops program, and a haying, grazing, and pasture enhancement program.