

1.1 A bill for an act
 1.2 relating to state lands; providing for the exchange of state lands within the
 1.3 Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness; proposing coding for new law in
 1.4 Minnesota Statutes, chapter 94.

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

1.6 Section 1. [94.3485] EXCHANGE OF STATE LANDS WITHIN THE
 1.7 BOUNDARY WATERS CANOE AREA WILDERNESS.

1.8 Subdivision 1. Exchange requirement. (a) The commissioner of natural resources
 1.9 shall vigorously pursue an agreement with the federal government to exchange all state
 1.10 lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness for federal lands outside
 1.11 of the wilderness.

1.12 (b) The agreement may provide for exchange of deeds without formal legal title
 1.13 opinions if:

1.14 (1) an authorized federal officer certifies that the federal government owns the title
 1.15 to the federal parcels of land to be transferred to the state; and

1.16 (2) the county auditor in which a parcel of federal land is located certifies that the
 1.17 county real estate tax records show federal ownership of any parcel to be transferred to
 1.18 the state.

1.19 Subd. 2. Inclusion of county and city-owned lands. By resolution adopted by its
 1.20 governing body, a county or city owning lands within the Boundary Waters Canoe Area
 1.21 Wilderness may request that the commissioner include those lands in discussion relating to
 1.22 the land exchange and any land exchange agreement. For the purposes of this subdivision,
 1.23 county-owned lands includes state tax-forfeited lands held in trust for the taxing districts
 1.24 that are administered by the county.

- 2.1 Subd. 3. Riparian lands. Notwithstanding section 94.342, subdivision 3, state riparian lands may be exchanged for nonriparian lands under this section.
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- 2.3 Subd. 4. Land status classification. (a) As provided in section 94.343, subdivision 11, the commissioner of natural resources shall recommend land status classifications for the lands received in the exchange to the Land Exchange Board for their approval.
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- 2.5 A county board may request a hearing before the Land Exchange Board in regard to disagreement with the commissioner over classification of lands received in exchange for tax-forfeited land held in trust by the state but administered by the county, and any other land owned by the county that was included in the exchange. A city may also request a hearing regarding land owned by a city that was included in the exchange.
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- 2.7 (b) Lands received by the federal government in exchange for school trust lands must be classified as forestry lands that are capable of generating revenue.
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- 2.9 (c) The commissioner may recommend to the legislature adjustments to the boundaries of state forests that are determined to be in the public interest.
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- 2.11 (d) The commissioner shall perform other duties in regard to this exchange as the Land Exchange Board may request.
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- 2.13 Subd. 5. Annual report. By January 15 each year, the commissioner shall report to the legislative committees with jurisdiction over natural resources and education policy and finance on the progress in vigorously pursuing an agreement under subdivision 1.
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- 2.15 The report shall include a detailed list of activities and a discussion of any obstacles to reach an agreement.
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