

Environment, Natural Resources, Climate, and Energy Omnibus Bill Signed Into Law

By: Cirien Saadeh

As part of the \$72 billion One Minnesota budget passed by the legislature, Governor Tim Walz signed into law the environment, natural resources, climate and energy omnibus bill. The bill includes \$1.6+ billion in one-time funding, as well as \$1.1 billion in ongoing spending.

The omnibus bill brings together both House and Senate priorities. The House version of the bill, House File 2310, is authored by [Rep. Rick Hansen](#) (DFL - District 53B, South Saint Paul). The Senate version of the omnibus bill, Senate File 2438, is authored by Sen. Fong Hawj (DFL - District 67, Saint Paul).

“This is the most significant environment and climate bill in Minnesota history, both in terms of its investment and its reforms,” said Hansen, quoted in an article from [Minnesota House Media Services](#).

The 443-page bill includes dozens of budget items, policy items, and provisions. Some of these include:

- \$939 million in funding for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- \$535 million in funding for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- \$120.1 million in funding for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Establishes a waste management capital assistance program aimed at supporting a multitude of municipalities in the “development and implementation of solid waste management projects”
- The bill bans the sales of specific products containing PFAS in Minnesota, as of Jan. 1, 2025. The banned products (if they include PFAS) would include: carpets, rugs, cleaning products, cookware, cosmetics, dental floss, fabric treatments, juvenile products, menstruation products, textile furnishings, ski wax, and upholstered furniture. The bill also allows the commissioner to prohibit other items containing PFAS, as needed.
- The bill sets and updates standards for labeling food and beverage products and packaging (with a specific focus on plastic bags) and bans the labeling of specific products as “biodegradable ... degradable ... or compostable,” in such a way that it implies those products would decompose unless the item meets specific requirements and specifications laid out in the legislation.
- \$2 million in funding for the Lawns-to-Legumes program
- Approximately \$101 million for funding to support the establishment and implementation of a local government climate resiliency and water infrastructure grant program. Of that \$101 million, just over \$49 million is to be used for grants to support communities in planning and implementing projects that will allow for adaptation for a changing climate.
- As part of the funding appropriation for game & fish, from funding in the natural resources fund, \$458,000 is appropriated to Dakota County for improvements to the Swing bridge Trailhead and historic Rock Island Swing Bridge alongside the Mississippi River Greenway

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- A \$1.2 million grant to Dakota County, as part of the game & fish appropriation, for adding a public boat launch along the Mississippi River between South St. Paul and Hastings
- \$75,000 from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources for an agreements with Friends of the Mississippi River “to assess how prairie restoration and different restoration seeding methods affect bumblebee abundance, diversity, and habitat and make recommendations to improve restoration outcomes.”
- \$601,000 from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board of Regents at the University of Minnesota for a study on how “disease prevalence, diet, habitat use, and interspecies interactions of coyotes and foxes change from urban to rural areas alongside the Mississippi River corridor.”
- \$825,000 from the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources to support the propagation and restoration of native freshwater mussels in the Mississippi, Cedar, and Cannon Rivers, as well as assessment of the work to reintroduce native mussels and public education on native mussels conservation

The complete bill can be read [here](#).

The environment, natural resources, climate, and energy omnibus bill was passed with some bipartisan support. In the House the vote was 72-57 and in the Senate the votes were 35-32. Many of the provisions become law when Minnesota’s 2024-2025 fiscal year begins on July 1, 2023.