

Fiscal Estimate Narratives

DNR 3/20/2018

LRB Number	17-5125/1	Introduction Number	AB-0833	Estimate Type	Original
Description grant programs for wetland mitigation and property development projects on Department of Natural Resources lands and making an appropriation					

Assumptions Used in Arriving at Fiscal Estimate

The proposal requires DNR to establish a new wetland mitigation grant program and a new property development grant program.

A. Wetland Mitigation Grant Program

1. Summary

The proposed program would award grants to nonprofit organizations to conduct wetland creation, restoration or enhancement projects on certain DNR lands acquired by the state in whole or in part with Stewardship funding. It would be funded at level of up to \$2.5 million each year from moneys received under the wetland in lieu fee (ILF) program and from surcharge fees charged for each application to proceed under a wetland general permit.

2. Fiscal Effect

Implementing the new program would require significant staff time, above current responsibilities, for ILF program staff and staff in Facilities and Lands, Natural Heritage Conservation, Environmental Analysis and Sustainability, Community Financial Assistance, Legal Services and Finance.

Implementation costs for this program would vary depending on the number and type of eligible properties, property-specific real estate interests, and the number and complexity of grant applications received. In addition, it is currently unknown if 25% of DNR stewardship land meets program eligibility criteria outlined in the bill. Due to these factors, the fiscal effect of implementing the proposed grant program is indeterminate.

The proposed provision in 281.37(5)(a) waiving permit fees has no fiscal impact, as permits are not required for DNR to conduct similar work on Stewardship properties.

B. Property Development Grant Program

1. Summary

The proposed program would award grants to nonprofit organizations that have also been awarded a Wetland Mitigation Grant. Eligible activities include those that would increase public access to, awareness about or recreational use of affected wetlands or that improve habitat in, on or near an affected wetland.

Grants from this program would be funded from the property development and local assistance subprogram of Stewardship. Amounts would be limited to no more than 10% of the amount of the Wetland Mitigation Grant and would not be paid until the project funded by the Wetland Mitigation Grant has been completed.

2. Fiscal Effect

Implementation costs for this program would vary depending on the number and type of eligible nonprofit organizations and the number and complexity of grant applications received. Due to these factors, the fiscal effect of implementing the proposed grant program is indeterminate.

Long-Range Fiscal Implications