



## Legislative Fiscal Bureau

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Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #461

### Environmental Analysis and Review Specialists (DNR -- Departmentwide)

[LFB 2011-13 Budget Summary: Page 303, #11]

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#### CURRENT LAW

Under a cooperative funding agreement between DNR and the Department of Transportation (DOT), DNR provides transportation "liaisons" throughout the state who perform environmental reviews (erosion, waterway and wetland regulations, and environmental assessments, as needed) of state roadway projects in the DNR regions. The liaisons also act as a single point of contact for local governments conducting transportation projects. In fall 2009, the Joint Committee on Finance authorized 3.0 two-year project positions and expenditure authority of \$225,000 in a program revenue continuing appropriation [20.370(3)(mk)] to address an increase in environmental review of transportation workload associated with federal ARRA projects. Authorization for the 3.0 project positions ends November 30, 2011.

#### GOVERNOR

Extend the 3.0 environmental analysis and review project positions through November, 2013.

#### DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The three positions and corresponding authority of \$258,400 for the biennium would be removed under standard budget adjustments (removal of non-continuing elements from the base). DOA indicates no expenditure authority was provided for extending the three staff since the appropriation is continuing. As a continuing appropriation, DNR, with the approval of DOA, may expend all monies received by the appropriation. However, since the appropriations schedule under

chapter 20 of the statutes is intended to represent the best estimate of expenditures for a continuing appropriation, if the Committee chooses to adopt the Governor's recommendation, associated expenditure authority could also be provided (\$95,200 in 2011-12 and \$163,200 in 2012-13).

2. The Administration indicates that the DNR workload for environmental review of transportation projects is expected to remain at an increased level (similar to the level related to ARRA projects) for at least the next two years. Section 84.01(33) of the statutes, as amended by 2009 Act 28, requires DOT to ensure that it maintains an inventory of completed highway designs on shovel ready projects equal to at least 65% of annual funding levels by July 1, 2014, and continuously thereafter. This will require increased transportation project design work, and the DNR-DOT Cooperative agreement requires a substantial amount of DNR involvement in the design phase of DOT projects. According to the Administration, DOT expects the increase in the DNR environmental review of DOT project designs to be significant for DNR in the next several years.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

1. Adopt the Governor's recommendation to extend 3.0 environmental analysis and review specialists through November, 2013.

2. Adopt the Governor's recommendation. In addition, provide \$95,200 in 2011-12 and \$163,200 in 2012-13 for associated salary, fringe benefits, and supplies.

<b>ALT 2</b>	<b>Change to Bill Funding</b>
PR	\$258,400

3. Delete provision. The project positions would expire on November 30, 2011.

<b>ALT 3</b>	<b>Change to Bill Positions</b>
PR	- 3.00

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