



2017 SENATE BILL 421

October 2, 2017 - Introduced by Senators COWLES, WANGGAARD, HARSDORF, MILLER, OLSEN and PETROWSKI, cosponsored by Representatives TUSLER, KITCHENS, VORPAGEL, ANDERSON, STEFFEN, HORLACHER and C. TAYLOR. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Energy.

1 **AN ACT to create** 23.0917 (5g) (d) of the statutes; **relating to:** amounts obligated
2 under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program for
3 water infrastructure projects in state parks.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to obligate no more than \$4,500,000 in unobligated moneys under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson Stewardship 2000 Program to fund critical health and safety-related water infrastructure projects in state parks, prioritizing projects in those state parks with the highest demand.

Current law authorizes the state to incur public debt for certain conservation activities under the stewardship program, which is administered by DNR. The state may incur this debt to acquire land for the state for conservation purposes and for property development activities and may award grants or state aid to certain local governmental units and nonprofit conservation organizations to acquire land for these purposes.

The stewardship program consists of five subprograms. Current law establishes the amounts that DNR may obligate in each fiscal year through 2019-20 for expenditure under each of these subprograms. Prior to fiscal year 2011-12, if DNR did not obligate the full amount it was authorized to obligate in a fiscal year under a subprogram, DNR was required to adjust the annual bonding authority for that subprogram by raising the annual bonding authority for the next fiscal year by the amount unobligated in that given fiscal year. This changed beginning in fiscal

