

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to state government; establishing a State Boundary Adjustment Planning  
1.3 Commission; requiring a report.

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

1.5 Section 1. **ROCKS AND COWS ACT.**

1.6 This act may be referred to as the "Rocks and Cows Act."

1.7 Sec. 2. **STATE BOUNDARY ADJUSTMENT PLANNING COMMISSION.**

1.8 Subdivision 1. **Commission established.** A State Boundary Adjustment Planning  
1.9 Commission is established. The purpose of the commission is to study and recommend to  
1.10 the legislature a pathway for counties that border the states of North Dakota or South Dakota  
1.11 to be separated from the legal boundaries of Minnesota and annexed into the boundaries of  
1.12 one of those states.

1.13 Subd. 2. **Membership; officers.** (a) The commission consists of the following members:

1.14 (1) the members of the house of representatives and the senate whose legislative districts  
1.15 include counties with a boundary on the border of either North Dakota or South Dakota;

1.16 (2) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house;

1.17 (3) one member of the house of representatives, appointed by the minority leader of the  
1.18 house;

1.19 (4) one member of the senate, appointed by the majority leader of the senate;

1.20 (5) one member of the senate, appointed by the minority leader of the senate;

2.1 (6) one member of the county board of each county with a boundary on the border of  
2.2 North Dakota or South Dakota, appointed by the applicable county board; and

2.3 (7) two members of the public, appointed by the governor.

2.4 (b) Additional members, including representatives of interested counties that do not  
2.5 share a border with North Dakota or South Dakota, may be appointed to the commission  
2.6 by majority vote of the members identified in paragraph (a).

2.7 (c) The commission must elect a chair, vice chair, and other officers from among its  
2.8 membership. The chair and vice chair positions must be filled by a member of the legislature  
2.9 whose legislative district includes a county with a boundary on the border of either North  
2.10 Dakota or South Dakota.

2.11 (d) Appointments to the commission must be made no later than July 15, 2023. The  
2.12 most senior member of the legislature from among the delegation of members of the  
2.13 legislature with a district boundary that includes the border of North Dakota or South Dakota  
2.14 must convene the first meeting of the commission no later than August 1, 2023. To the  
2.15 extent practicable, all meetings of the commission must be conducted in counties that border  
2.16 North Dakota or South Dakota. Meetings of the commission are subject to Minnesota  
2.17 Statutes, chapter 13D.

2.18 Subd. 3. **Duties.** The commission must:

2.19 (1) solicit input from members of the public regarding the commission's purpose as  
2.20 described in subdivision 1, prioritizing input from members of the public residing in counties  
2.21 with a boundary on the North Dakota or South Dakota border;

2.22 (2) solicit input from experts in other states that have experience with similar boundary  
2.23 adjustment proposals;

2.24 (3) review applicable laws and other precedents in federal and state law that govern state  
2.25 boundary adjustments;

2.26 (4) study potential impacts of a boundary adjustment on the state's budget and other  
2.27 operations of government; and

2.28 (5) propose a pathway to authorize interested counties to seek a boundary adjustment  
2.29 and annexation by the state of South Dakota or North Dakota, including any draft legislation  
2.30 necessary to facilitate that process.

2.31 Subd. 4. **Administrative support.** The Legislative Coordinating Commission must  
2.32 provide administrative support to facilitate the commission's work.

3.1 Subd. 5. **Report.** The commission must submit a report to all members of the legislative  
3.2 committees with jurisdiction over rules and state and local government finance and policy  
3.3 no later than February 1, 2024, describing its work.

3.4 Subd. 6. **Expiration.** The commission expires upon submission of the report required  
3.5 by subdivision 5.