

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Sale of State Nurseries and Hatcheries

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Overview

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to phase out and sell its existing nursery and fish hatchery operations within five years.

Section

1 Encourage private sector competition and availability and development of local ecotypes.

Subd. 1. State tree planting stock nurseries. Requires the commissioner of natural resources to stop tree plantings at one of the state's nurseries and sell the nursery within two years. Requires the commissioner to decrease production by 20 percent at the remaining nursery each year (beginning in 2009) and sell that nursery within five years.

Subd. 2. State fish hatcheries. Requires the commissioner to decrease production at state fish hatcheries by 20 percent each year (beginning in 2009) and close offices and hatcheries and sell the hatchery assets. Requires the commissioner to cease state fish hatchery operations within five years.

Subd. 3. Production reduction schedule. Requires the commissioner to make a schedule available on the department's Web site that shows the annual production reductions for each year, including the availability of specific species.

Subd. 4. Sale of state nurseries and hatcheries. Permits the commissioner to sell the real property, improvements and other business assets of the state's nurseries and hatcheries by public or private sale, and requires that the nurseries and hatcheries sold be appraised by a licensed state appraiser. Requires the seller to assume any contractual obligations. Requires proceeds from the sales to be deposited in the general fund.

