Overview

This bill establishes the St. Louis river board to implement the plan for the cooperative management of the Cloquet, St. Louis, and Whiteface rivers and related shorelands in order to protect and enhance the natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values of the rivers.

Section

1. **Findings and intent.** States findings of the legislature regarding the Cloquet, St. Louis, and Whiteface rivers, and the joint powers agreement entered into by the counties of St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake with regard to management of the rivers. States the intent of the bill.

2. **Applicability.** States that sections 3 to 9 apply to the counties of St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake.

3. **Definitions.** Defines "board" (St. Louis river board established in this bill), "counties" (St. Louis, Carlton, and Lake), and "plan" (river management plan approved by the board).

4. **St. Louis river board.** Establishes the joint powers board as a permanent board with authority to amend and implement the river management plan. Provides for a 13-member board, terms, filling of vacancies, officers, meetings, staff and contracts, funding, an advisory committee, and contracts with government agencies.

5. **Plan implementation.** Provides that the plan’s standards are the minimum standards that may be adopted by the board and the counties for the protection and enhancement of the natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values of the rivers and related shoreland areas. Directs the board to develop and establish a schedule for implementation and common administration of the plan by the counties. Requires the counties to adopt land use ordinances consistent with the plan.

6. **Responsibilities of other government units.** Requires all other governmental bodies to act to further the purposes of this act and the plan. Provides for board review and comment on actions that do not comply with the plan.

7. **Review and certification of land use actions.** Establishes a review and certification procedure
for land use actions taken by the counties and directly or indirectly affecting land use within the area covered by the plan. Applies to zoning and plat approvals. Provides aggrieved persons an administrative review process and, ultimately appeal to district court.

8 **Incorporation and annexation.** Places a moratorium on subdivision platting and building permits for land subject to the river management plan that is annexed or otherwise subjected to the land use planning authority of city, until zoning regulations are adopted that comply with the plan. Also places a moratorium on construction, grading and filling, and vegetative cutting on such land. Permits work done under permits issued before the land became subject to the land use planning authority of the city.

9 **Biennial report.** Requires the board to report to the legislature during the first year of each biennium on the actions of the board, including an assessment of the effectiveness of the plan and its implementation in protecting and enhancing the natural, scientific, historical, recreational, and cultural values of the rivers and related shorelands.

10 **Local approval.** Effective upon local approval.

11 **Appropriation.** Appropriates $100,000 from the general fund to the board of water and soil resources for fiscal year 2000 for the purposes of the bill.