

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2866
Version: First engrossment

DATE: March 18, 2016

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Subject: DNR Policy Bill

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Overview

This bill contains a number of technical and policy provisions recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Section

- 1 **Nonindigenous species.** Amends § 17.4982, subd. 18a. Technical.
- 2 **Game and fish rules.** Amends § 84.027, subd. 13. Technical.
- 3 **Game and fish expedited permanent rules.** Amends § 84.027, subd. 13a. Technical.
- 4 **License required.** Amends § 84.091, subd. 2. Allows tribal band members possessing a valid tribal identification card to harvest wild rice without a permit from the DNR.
- 5 **Aquatic macrophyte.** Amends § 84D.01, subd. 2. Clarifies the definition of “aquatic macrophyte” to include macro algae (for example, starry stonewort recently discovered in Minnesota).
- 6 **Prohibited activities.** Amends § 84D.05, subd. 1. Removes an exception from the ban on possessing prohibited invasive species for those who had lawfully acquired them dead.
- 7 **Nonnative species, aquatic plants, and aquatic macrophytes; parts and life stage.** Adds § 84D.075. Clarifies that laws relating to nonnative species, aquatic plants, and aquatic macrophytes apply to all parts of the organism whether dead or alive.
- 8 **Exceptions.** Amends § 84D.09, subd. 2. Allows a person driving a commercial garbage vehicle to transport aquatic macrophytes (aquatic plants) from riparian property to a legal

Section

disposal site provided the site is at least 100 feet from any surface water, ditch, or land that seasonally floods.

- 9 **Persons transporting water-related equipment.** Amends § 84D.10, subd. 4. Clarifies that requirements to drain water from boats and related equipment prior to transporting do not apply to transporting the boat within the immediate area required for loading and preparing the boat for transport.
- 10 **Lake Minnetonka pilot study.** Allows the DNR to issue a permit to certain service providers (dock installers, boat rental providers, etc.) to allow the return of water-related equipment with zebra mussels attached back to Lake Minnetonka after being stored for the season. Requires the service providers to have a corporate surety bond in favor of the state for \$50,000 payable upon violation of chapter 84D (the state's invasive species laws). The provision expires December 1, 2018.
- 11 **Prohibited invasive species.** Amends § 84D.11, subd. 1. Corresponding change related to the previous section.
- 12 **Warnings; civil citations.** Amends § 84D.13, subd. 4. Allows civil citations to be issued to a person who fails to comply with an aquatic invasive species (AIS) decontamination order (when a unit is onsite or when required to do so by a certain date) or failing to complete the AIS offender training course.
- 13 **Civil penalties.** Amends § 84D.13, subd. 5. Establishes civil penalties for failing to comply with a decontamination order when the decontamination unit is onsite (\$250); for failing to complete decontamination or remove invasive species by the date required (\$250); and for failing to complete AIS offender training (\$25).
- 14 **Preparation, review, and approval of plans and regulations.** Adds § 116G.15, subd. 8. Requires the DNR to adopt rules governing the preparation, review, and approval of plans, regulations, and updates required due to Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area designation and allows those rules to be developed using an expedited rulemaking process. Provides an immediate effective date.
- 15 **Lake service provider feasibility report.** Requires the DNR to submit a report to the legislature on the feasibility of expanding the pilot program for service providers on Lake Minnetonka (established in section 10) to other lakes by January 15, 2019.