

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various policy provisions proposed by the Department of Natural Resources.

Section

- 1 Professional services support account.** Amends § 84.025, subd. 9. Allows the DNR to bill other governmental units, including tribal governments for the costs of providing them professional support services.
- 2 Electronic transactions.** Amends § 84.027, subd. 15. Adds gift certificates and safety training certifications to the list of products available through the electronic licensing system.
- 3 Fleet management account.** Amends § 84.0856. Allows the DNR to bill other governmental units, including tribal governments for the costs of providing them with equipment.
- 4 Facilities management account.** Amends § 84.0857. Allows the DNR to bill other governmental units, including tribal governments for the costs of providing them with building and infrastructure facilities.
- 5 Fees for registration.** Amends § 84.82, subd. 3. Establishes a onetime fee of \$6 for the registration of collector snowmobiles (those at least 25 years old).
- 6 Exemption; collector unlimited snowmobile use.** Adds § 84.82, subd. 6a. Allows snowmobiles that are at least 25 years old to be registered at the exempt registration fee established in the previous section and states that the registration is valid until the ownership of the snowmobile is transferred.
- 7 Class 1 all-terrain vehicle.** Amends § 84.92, subd. 9. Increases the maximum weight on a class 1 ATV from 900 to 1,000 pounds.

- 8 **Class 2 all-terrain vehicle.** Amends § 84.92, subd.10. Increases the maximum weight on a class 2 ATV from 1,500 to 1,800 pounds.
- 9 **Collector unlimited use; exempt registration.** Adds § 84.922, subd. 2b. Allows ATVs that are at least 25 years old to be registered at the exempt registration fee established in the next section and states that the registration is valid until the ownership of the ATV is transferred.
- 10 **Fees for registration.** Amends § 84.922, subd. 5. Establishes a onetime fee of \$6 for the registration of collector ATVs (those at least 25 years old).
- 11 **Program established.** Amends § 84.925, subd. 1. Allows ATV safety training instructors to charge an amount up to the established fee for class materials and expenses in addition to the fee for the class. Currently the instructor is allowed to charge “the cost of class materials and expenses.”
- 12 **Operation on roads and rights-of-way.** Amends § 84.928, subd. 1. Permits an ATV to be operated on public road right-of ways that are part of grant-in-aid trails by exempting such trails from existing restrictions.
- 13 **Arrowhead Region Trails, in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Pine, Carlton, Koochiching, and Itasca Counties.** Amends § 85.015, subd. 13. Moves the Minnesota-Wisconsin Trail originating in Duluth to the Arrowhead regional trails (currently part of the Willard Munger trail system).
- 14 **Willard Munger Trail System, Chisago, Ramsey, Pine, St. Louis, Carlton, and Washington Counties.** Amends § 85.015, subd. 14. Deletes a segment of the Willard Munger trail system moved to the Arrowhead regional trail system in the previous section.
- 15 **Deposit of fees.** Amends § 85.052, subd. 4. Deposits funds from sales, rentals, or leases of natural resources within state parks, recreation areas, and waysides that are currently being deposited in the general fund to the state parks working capital account (established under section 85.22).
- 16 **Exemption.** Amends § 85.22, subd. 5. Technical.
- 17 **Areas marked.** Amends § 85.32, subd. 1. Adds the Blue Earth River to the water trails system.
- 18 **Disposition of receipts; purpose.** Amends § 85.43. Modifies the use of ski trail pass receipts to include the development and maintenance of state cross-country ski trails and modifies existing provisions providing grants-in-aid to include counties, municipalities, and special park districts for the construction and maintenance of cross-country ski trails.
- 19 **Horse pass.** Amends § 85.46. Makes technical changes and requires a horse pass of a person riding, leading, or driving a horse on land administered by the DNR (currently the pass is required while on state trails, in state parks, state recreation areas and state forests).
- 20 **Master plan required.** Amends § 86A.09, subd. 1. Exempts scientific and natural areas from master plan requirements.
- 21 **Jurisdiction.** Amends § 103A.305. Technical (related to repeal of section 103G.295).

- 22 District boundary adjustments.** Adds § 103F.325, subd. 6. Allows the commissioner to amend the boundaries of wild and scenic river systems designated by the commissioner by issuing an order. Requires the commissioner to give public notice of the change at least 30 days prior to the order and consider comments received on the proposed change. States that the change is effective 30 days following the issuance of the order and permits a local government to contest the order. States that acreage limits under the section still apply to boundary amendments.
- 23 Compliance of ordinance with system.** Amends § 103F.335, subd. 1. Permits local units of government to “substantially” comply with standards and criteria within wild, scenic, and recreational river management plans.
- 24 Public waters inventory.** Amends § 103G.201. Removes a requirement that lists (in addition to maps that would still be required) of public waters be provided by the DNR as part of the public waters inventory.
- 25 Permit restriction during summer months.** Amends § 103G.271, subd. 3. Technical (related to repeal of section 103G.295).
- 26 Monitoring to evaluate impacts from appropriations.** Amends § 103G.282.
- Subd. 1. Monitoring equipment.** Allows the commissioner to require the installation and maintenance of monitoring equipment to evaluate impacts from permitted water appropriations and proposed projects.
- Subd. 2. Measuring devices required.** Requires monitoring equipment to be equipped with automated measuring devices to measure water levels, flows and conditions. Allows the commissioner to determine the frequency of measurements.
- Subd. 3. Reports and costs.** Requires records of the measurements be kept and reported annually to the commissioner by February 15 of the following year. States that the costs of the monitoring installations, measurements, and reporting is the responsibility of the owner or person in charge of the permitted project or proposed project and that monitoring costs for water resources supplying more than one appropriator may be distributed among all users within the area.
- 27 Trout streams.** Amends § 103G.285, subd. 5. Technical.

- 28 Groundwater appropriations.** Adds § 103G.287. Establishes groundwater appropriation procedures (in part meant to replace an obsolete section dealing with agricultural irrigation appropriations that is repealed in this bill (section 103G.295)).
- Subd. 1. Waiver.** Allows the commissioner to waive requirements in subdivisions 2 to 6 for just cause.
- Subd. 2. Applications for groundwater appropriations.** Specifies what is required on groundwater use permit applications.
- Subd. 3. Relationship to surface water resources.** States that ground water appropriations that have potential impacts on surface waters are subject to the surface water appropriation requirements under section 103G.285.
- Subd. 4. Protection of groundwater supplies.** Allows the commissioner to establish groundwater appropriation limits and requires the commissioner to consider current and projected water levels and the water supply management objectives contained in section 103G.265 (which require the commissioner “to assure an adequate supply to meet long-range seasonal requirements” for a number of different purposes).
- Subd. 5. Groundwater management areas.** Allows the commissioner to designate groundwater management areas and limit appropriations and uses within those areas to ensure future supplies. Requires these appropriations and uses to be consistent with a plan approved by the commissioner that addresses water conservation requirements and follows the water allocation priorities established in section 103G.261.
- Subd. 6. Interference with other wells.** Allows the commissioner to issue water use permits for groundwater only if the commissioner determines that adequate water supplies are available for the proposed use and would not reduce water levels beyond the reach of public water supplies and private domestic wells.
- 29 Filing application.** Amends § 103G.301, subd. 6. Removes a requirement that general water permit applications include proof of service.
- 30 Exception.** Amends § 103G.305, subd. 2. Technical (related to repeal of section 103G.295).
- 31 Limitations on permits.** Amends § 103G.315, subd. 11. Technical (related to repeal of section 103G.295).
- 32 Removal of hazardous dams.** Amends § 103G.515, subd. 5. Allows the commissioner to pay the entire cost of removing a dam if it is the lowest cost solution.
- 33 Removing sunken logs from public waters prohibited.** Adds § 103G.651. Prohibits the commissioner from issuing leases or permits for the removal of sunken logs from public waters (in 2001 the legislature passed a moratorium on issuing new permits for the removal of sunken logs (Laws 2001, 1st spec. sess. ch. 2., § 159)).

- 34 Nongame wildlife checkoff.** Amends § 290.431. Removes a requirement that the commissioner’s work program for the nongame wildlife program reviewed by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) be approved before any money can be spent. Permits the commissioner to use nongame wildlife program funds to develop, preserve, restore, and maintain wintering habitat for neotropical migrant birds in Latin America and the Caribbean under agreement or contract with a nonprofit.
- 35 Corporate nongame wildlife checkoff.** Amends § 290.432. Removes a requirement that the commissioner’s work program for the nongame wildlife program reviewed by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) be approved before any money can be spent.
- 36 Acquisition; Lake Vermilion State Park.** Permits the commissioner of natural resources to pay up to \$18,000,000 for land for Lake Vermilion State Park. (The park was authorized in 2008 upon the purchase of the lands, however, a provision limiting the purchase price to no more than 12 percent above the appraised value of the land included in the 2008 bonding bill (Laws 2008, ch. 365, § 25) has been a barrier to completing the purchase.)
- 37 Revisor’s instruction.** Instructs the Revisor to change the terms “horse trail pass” to “horse pass,” “canoe and boating routes” to “water trail routes,” and “Minnesota Conservation Corps” to “Conservation Corps Minnesota” wherever they appear in statute or rules.
- 38 Repealer.** Repeals §§ 103G.295 (agricultural irrigation water appropriations); and 103G.650 (recovery of sunken logs).