

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions related to aquatic invasive species being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Section

- 1 Service provider.** Amends § 84D.01, subd. 15a. Amends the definition of service provider to include someone who decontaminates water-related equipment. Service providers are subject to certain aquatic invasive species training requirements.
- 2 Commercial fishing and turtle, frog, and crayfish harvesting restrictions in infested and noninfested waters.** Amends § 84D.03, subd. 4. Changes the requirement for commercial fishing so that they are required to remove aquatic plants prior to putting equipment into water, rather than when the equipment is removed from the water.
- 3 Aquatic macrophytes.** Amends § 84D.09. Removes two exceptions from the prohibition on transporting aquatic plants and requires those activities to be permitted through a special permit from the commissioner.
- 4 Launching prohibited.** Amends § 84D.10, subd. 1. Technical.
- 5 Persons transporting water-related equipment.** Amends § 84D.10, subd. 4. Provides an exemption to the requirement to drain water and leave the plug open for commercial vehicles (excluding watercraft) specifically designed for water hauling that are transporting noninfested waters provided the water is not discharged to or within 100 feet of other surface waters. Also provides an exemption for a person transporting water from noninfested waters for firefighting or emergencies.

Section

- 6** **Inspector authority.** Amends § 84D.105, subd. 2. Allows aquatic invasive species inspection sites to serve multiple public accesses on a single water body and subjects the stations to certain requirements that currently apply to locations serving multiple water bodies.
- 7** **Transport of water.** Adds § 84D.11, subd. 2b. Allows the commissioner to issue a permit or authorization under a license/permit to allow the transportation of water in containers or water-related equipment specifically designed to haul water.
- 8** **Transport of water.** Adds § 84D.11, subd. 2c. Allows the commissioner to issue a permit to allow the transportation of aquatic plants to locations specified in a permit for purposes of research, education, and decontaminating equipment.
- 9** **Special permits.** Adds § 84D.11, subd. 2d. Allows the commissioner to issue general permits to a government subdivision or the general public to conduct one or more activities regulated under the section under a single permit. Activities include: possession, importation, and other activities related to prohibited invasive species; introduction of regulated invasive species; and harvesting bait from infested waters.
- 10** **Cumulative remedy.** Adds § 84D.13, subd. 2. Clarifies that a peace officer (as is the case for conservation officers) cannot seek additional penalties if the officer has issued a civil citation.
- 11** **Training for offenders.** Adds § 84D.13, subd. 9. Requires someone convicted of an invasive species violation involving water-related equipment to complete the aquatic invasive species course developed by the commissioner for purposes of the aquatic invasive species decal requirement passed last session beginning July 1, 2015.
- 12** **Training for offenders.** Adds § 86B.13, subd. 1a. Requires someone convicted of an invasive species violation involving water-related equipment to complete the aquatic invasive species course referenced above prior to operating or using water-related equipment beginning July 1, 2015.
- 13** **Repealer.** Repeals section 84D.01, the definition of zebra mussel.