

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 896
Version: First engrossment

DATE: February 24, 2014

Authors: Persell

Subject: Fish Barriers

Analyst: Janelle Taylor

This publication can be made available in alternative formats upon request. Please call 651-296-6753 (voice); or the Minnesota State Relay Service at 1-800-627-3529 (TTY) for assistance. Summaries are also available on our website at: www.house.mn/hrd/.

Overview

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to enter into a contract by March 15, 2013 to design an electric fish barrier for Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River that meets certain requirements.

In 2012, \$7,500,000 from the outdoor heritage fund was appropriated to the DNR to design, construct, and operate fish barriers to serve as deterrents for Asian carp (see Minnesota Laws 2012, chapter 264, article 1, section 2, subdivision 5, paragraph (h)). This bill is designed to provide additional criteria for use of those funds.

Section

- 1 Electric fish barrier.** Requires the commissioner of natural resources to enter into a contract to design an electric fish barrier to be installed at Lock and Dam 1 on the Mississippi River. Requires that the barrier use the “most modern technology available for fish dispersal systems” and include a sweeping or active field barrier with certain sonar capabilities. Requires the contract to be awarded no later than March 15, 2013.