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**Authors:** Hansen and others

**Subject:** Aquatic invasive species decals; fees and civil penalties

**Analyst:** Mary Mullen

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### Overview

This bill repeals the aquatic invasive species prevention program and creates an aquatic invasive species decal that must be on each watercraft in Minnesota waters and requires the distribution of educational materials with the sale of the decal. The money collected from the sales of the decal goes to the invasive species account.

#### Section

**1 Receipts.** Adds fees collected from the sale of aquatic invasive species decals for watercrafts to the monies deposited in the invasive species account.

**2 Aquatic invasive species decal.**

**Subd. 1. Decal required; fees.** Prohibits using a watercraft in waters of the state unless there is a valid annual aquatic invasive species decal displayed that was issued by the commissioner of natural resources. This bill requires that the decal be visible and provides where it should be placed and also provides the fee and application information for the decal.

**Subd. 2. Penalties.** Provides that if a person fails to have a decal in 2014, their violation fee is twice the application fee amount, if the person fails to have a decal in subsequent years the violation fee is a civil penalty of \$50 for the first violation and \$100 for each subsequent violation.

**Subd. 3. Education materials.** Requires the commissioner of natural resources to develop and distribute educational information on aquatic invasive species, including

## **Section**

information on applicable laws and how to identify aquatic invasive species. This section also requires applicants for a decal to acknowledge receipt of the educational information and provides that the purchase of the decal constitutes express acknowledgement.

**Subd. 4. License agents.** Allows the commissioner of natural resources to: appoint agents who can sell the invasive species decals; make the decals and educational materials available through an electronic licensing system; revoke agents; and adopt additional rules. This section also requires that agents selling decals must follow all the rules for proper accounting and handling and deposit all money from the sale to the commissioner.

**Subd. 5. Issuing fees.** Provides that there is a one dollar fee charged per decal as an issuing fee which can be retained by the seller of the decal and if the commissioner retains the fee it is to be deposited in the natural resources fund to be used for the electronic licensing system.

**Subd. 6. Duplicated decals.** Provides a process and fee for issuing a duplicate decal if one is lost or destroyed.

**Effective date.** This section is effective January 1, 2014.

- 3 Repealer.** This section repeals that aquatic invasive species prevention program passed last session which established aquatic invasive species program and required an aquatic invasive species trailer decal to be displayed on trailers transporting watercraft or water-related equipment.