

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish three northern pike management zones with different northern pike size and possession limits by amending its rules and provides a good cause exemption from the rulemaking process for those purposes. The rules are being proposed by the DNR to better manage the different northern pike issues within the three zones.

Section

- 1 **Walleye.** Amends § 97C.401, subd. 2. Removes the statutory prohibition on having more than one northern pike above 30 inches in possession.
- 2 **Rulemaking; northern pike.** Requires the DNR to establish northern pike management zones as follows:
 - ▶ Northeastern management zone with a daily and possession limit of two, with no more than one over 40 inches and a protected slot limit between 30-40 inches;
 - ▶ North central management zone with a daily and possession limit of 10, with anglers limited to two over 26 inches and a protected slot limit of 22-26 inches, and those spear fishing limited to two over 26 inches or one fish between 22-26 inches and one over 26 inches; and
 - ▶ Southern management zone with a daily and possession limit of two with a minimum length limit of 24 inches.

Section

Provides a good cause exemption from the rulemaking process and requires the DNR to submit a report to the legislature on the success of the regulations and recommendations on whether to keep or modify the regulations by January 15, 2027.