

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies a law passed in 2012 that established new aquatic invasive species (AIS) training and trailer decal requirements set to go into effect July 1, 2015. The modifications include delaying the law's implementation; narrowing the applicability of the requirements; providing certain exemptions; prohibiting a fee for the training course or decal from being charged; and establishing a civil penalty for violations of the law.

Under the existing law, a person trailering a boat or other water-related equipment in the state would be required to obtain an AIS trailer decal from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A person must successfully complete a training course in order to receive the decal. Violators of certain AIS laws would also be required to complete the training.

A law passed in 2011 also established an AIS decal requirement that required all watercraft owners to display a decal listing AIS rules on their watercraft prior to launching into/entering state waters. The law was repealed prior to full implementation and was replaced with the provision being modified in this bill.

Section

- 1 Civil penalties.** Amends § 84D.13, subd. 5. Establishes a civil penalty of \$25, beginning January 1, 2017, for launching water-related equipment into waters of the state without a required AIS trailer decal or training validation.

Section

- 2 **Training for offenders.** Amends § 84D.13, subd. 9. Delays the effective date (to January 1, 2016) of a section that requires violators of certain invasive species laws to complete an AIS training course.
- 3 **Establishment.** Amends § 86B.13, subd. 1. Modifies an existing requirement of the commissioner of natural resources to establish a statewide AIS course to require it to be done by January 1, 2016, and prohibit the commissioner from charging a fee for the course.
- 4 **Training for offenders.** Amends § 86B.13, subd. 1a. Delays the effective date (to January 1, 2016) of a section that requires violators of certain invasive species laws to complete an AIS training course before continuing to operate/use water-related equipment.
- 5 **Aquatic invasive species trailer decal.** Amends § 86B.13, subd. 2. Requires the commissioner to issue AIS trailer decals at no cost to a person that satisfactorily completes the AIS training course.
- 6 **Aquatic invasive species trailer decal display required.** Amends § 86B.13, subd. 4. Modifies existing AIS trailer decal requirements by: delaying implementation until January 1, 2016; narrowing the requirement to those who are launching watercraft/water-related equipment into waters of the state (rather than transporting watercraft or water-related equipment as would be required under current law); extending the period of time temporary authorizations for those who have not completed the training may be made for from seven days to 14 days; and providing certain exemptions.
- 7 **Penalty.** References the penalty for not complying with AIS trailer decal and training requirements established in section 1 and states that violations are punishable only by warnings until January 1, 2017. Under current law, the AIS trailer decal requirements would only be punishable by a warning.