



MNDNR

2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



DNR Policy & Technical Bill

It is needed because

This bill would:

- Authorize the DNR to use expedited rulemaking to streamline the review of local governments' plans and ordinances under the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA).
- Clarify and update aquatic invasive species laws to protect Minnesota's waters while providing flexibility to people and businesses that use lakes and rivers.
- Allow tribal members to harvest wild rice anywhere in the state without a state license.

Major program elements

Sections 1, 2 and 3. Nonindigenous species and Game and Fish rules. This would make a technical correction to change the word "list" to "designate" in several locations in statute to ensure consistency with the language used in 84D with respect to the process used to classify invasive species.

Sec. 4. License required. This provision would allow tribal members to harvest wild rice anywhere in the state without a state ricing license.

Sec. 5. Aquatic macrophytes. This would clarify that the definition of aquatic macrophytes includes aquatic plants and "macro" algae like starry stonewort, an aquatic invasive species first found in Minnesota in 2015.

Sec. 6 and 7. Prohibited activities and Nonnative species. This provision would remove an exception

that allowed people to have prohibited invasive species if the species was lawfully acquired dead or preserved and would clarify that invasive species laws apply to invasive species in any life stage and whether they are alive or dead.

Sec. 8. Exceptions. This would provide an exception to allow commercial garbage haulers to transport aquatic plants without a permit.

Sec. 9. Persons transporting water-related equipment. This would clarify that invasive species laws apply when moving equipment over land from one water body to another water body.

Sec. 10 and 11. Lake Minnetonka pilot study and Prohibited invasive species. These provisions would provide for a pilot study, including permit authority, which would allow certain businesses to store or service equipment from Lake Minnetonka without removing zebra mussels before replacing that equipment into Lake Minnetonka.

Sec. 12 and 13. Warnings; civil citations and civil penalties. Would specify civil penalties for certain aquatic invasive species violations that would currently "default" to criminal penalties. Civil penalties collected under this provision would be deposited into the invasive species account.

Sec. 14. Preparation, review, and approval of plans and regulations. This would allow the DNR to use expedited rulemaking to streamline the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) local plans and ordinances review process and would exempt the process from outdated, general review procedures.

This provision would allow the DNR to better coordinate with the Metropolitan Council.

Sec. 15. Lake service provider feasibility report.

This provision would require the DNR to submit a report on the pilot study authorized in sections 10 and 11.

Key measures and outcomes

- Allows the DNR, through expedited rulemaking, to develop a more streamlined and coordinated review of local MRCCA plans and ordinances.
- A more streamlined review process will result in better customer service to local governments.
- Allows increased flexibility for businesses servicing boats and equipment from Lake Minnetonka without increasing the risk of spreading aquatic invasive species.
- Continues to protect Minnesota's waters from aquatic invasive species by clarifying regulations.

Fiscal impacts

This bill's fiscal impacts would likely be minimal.

For further information contact:

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