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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1472

03/11/2013 Authored by McNamara

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture Finance

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; increasing watercraft surcharges; requiring  
1.3 restrictions on use of St. Anthony Falls locks and dams to be pursued;  
1.4 appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 86B.415,  
1.5 subdivision 7.

1.6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 86B.415, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 7. **Watercraft surcharge.** A \$5 surcharge is placed on each watercraft licensed  
1.9 under subdivisions 1 to 5 for control, public awareness, law enforcement, monitoring, and  
1.10 research of aquatic invasive species such as zebra mussel, purple loosestrife, and Eurasian  
1.11 water milfoil in public waters and public wetlands. The surcharge is:

1.12 (1) \$10 for watercraft licensed under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause (2);

1.13 (2) \$20 for watercraft licensed under subdivision 1, paragraph (b), clause (6); and

1.14 (3) \$25 for all other watercraft.

1.15 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective June 1, 2013.

1.16 Sec. 2. **RECREATIONAL USE OF LOCK AND DAM.**

1.17 (a) The commissioner of natural resources, in consultation with the United States  
1.18 Coast Guard, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the National Park Service,  
1.19 the city of Minneapolis, and other stakeholders, shall identify all options for restricting  
1.20 recreational use of the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, the Upper St. Anthony  
1.21 Falls Lock and Dam, and the area in between, and seek to close the dams and area to  
1.22 recreational users by June 1, 2013.

2.1            (b) The commissioner of natural resources shall evaluate options to provide portage  
 2.2 opportunities for watercraft to portage around the Lower St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam  
 2.3 and the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam, including contracting with a private  
 2.4 entity to provide portage services to recreational users for a fee.

2.5            **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.6            Sec. 3. **COMMERCIAL USE OF LOCK AND DAM.**

2.7            The commissioner of employment and economic development shall negotiate with  
 2.8 all commercial users of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam in order to reach  
 2.9 agreements to stop commercial watercraft use of the lock and dam by June 1, 2013.

2.10           **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day following final enactment.

2.11           Sec. 4. **APPROPRIATIONS.**

2.12           (a) \$..... in fiscal year 2014 is appropriated from the invasive species account to  
 2.13 the commissioner of employment and economic development to provide compensation to  
 2.14 commercial users of the Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock and Dam as determined under the  
 2.15 agreements negotiated by the commissioner under this act.

2.16           (b) \$..... in fiscal year 2014 is appropriated from the invasive species account to  
 2.17 the commissioner of natural resources for additional environmental DNA testing and for  
 2.18 contracting with permitted commercial fishing operators to detect the presence of Asian  
 2.19 carp. If necessary, the commissioner may waive commercial fishing area restrictions to  
 2.20 allow additional permit holders to assist in the detection efforts.