

CHAPTER 644—S. F. No. 877

[Not Coded]

An act authorizing acquisition by the commissioner of conservation in the name of the state of lands and the development thereof for wild life habitat purposes, and providing payments to counties in lieu of taxes on lands so acquired.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota :

Section 1. Acquisition of wildlife lands by Commissioner of Conservation. The Commissioner of Conservation is hereby authorized and empowered to acquire, in the name of the state, by gift, lease, purchase and transfer of state lands, any such wildlife lands, such as marsh or wetlands, and the margins thereof, including ponds, small lakes and stream bottom lands, which he finds desirable to acquire in the interests of water conservation relating to wildlife development programs, and, he may also acquire for this purpose from any state agency, itself included, lands now in state ownership or tax-forfeited which are suitable for wildlife purposes, and when such lands are so acquired, he is authorized to develop the same in the interest of wildlife, recreational or public hunting areas as he shall deem desirable. No such lands shall be acquired until first approved for such purchase, or lease, by a majority of the members of the Board of County Commissioners in the counties where the land to be purchased, or leased, is located. In the counties in which a Soil Conservation District is organized the supervisors will act as counsellors to the Board of County Commissioners regarding the best utilization and capability of the land proposed for purchase, including the questions of drainage and flood control. The Commissioner in the purchase of such wetlands must recognize that when a majority of land owners, or owners of a majority of the land in the watershed, petition for a drainage outlet, that the state should not interfere, or unnecessarily delay such drainage proceedings when such proceedings are conducted according to the Minnesota Drainage Code. In no case should state lands, so purchased, or leased, be used to produce crops which are in a surplus as defined by the Federal Government unless such crops are needed to sustain wildlife. No lands described herein shall be acquired unless there is acquired simultaneously therewith a right-of-way or easement from said lands to a public road so as to make entry upon said lands available to the public.

Sec. 2. Surcharge on small game hunting licenses appropriated. To provide funds for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there is hereby imposed upon

all small game hunting licenses a surcharge of \$1, which shall be added to such license fee, and which surcharge shall be free from any commissions and so stated on the back of the small game hunting licenses, together with the following statement: "This \$1 surcharge is being paid by sportsmen for the acquisition and development of wildlife lands."

Sec. 3. **Wildlife acquisition fund, established.** There shall be established in the state treasury a separate fund known as the "Wildlife Acquisition Fund" into which the proceeds derived from the surcharge shall be deposited and all monies so deposited shall be used by the Commissioner of Conservation for the purposes of this act, in accordance with appropriations made by the legislature.

Sec. 4. **Assessments to be paid from fund.** Any assessments against the State of Minnesota under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Section 106.381, or Laws 1955, Chapter 681, shall be paid from monies in the Wildlife Acquisition Fund herein created on all such lands or properties heretofore or hereafter acquired for wildlife habitat.

Sec. 5. **Effective date and expiration.** This act shall be effective upon its passage, and continue in effect until December 31, 1962.

Approved April 25, 1957.

CHAPTER 645—H. F. No. 1170

[Coded]

An act to establish and dedicate Mille Lacs Kathio State Park in Mille Lacs County.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota:

Section 1. [85.122] [(1.)] **Mille Lacs Kathio State Park.** All state-owned lands now under the jurisdiction of the commissioner of conservation for conservation purposes, together with all lands now or hereafter forfeited for non-payment of taxes and any trust fund lands now or hereafter granted to the state, all of which are hereby withdrawn from sale, and which are located in Mille Lacs County within the limits hereinafter described, are hereby set apart and dedicated for park purposes, to-wit:

Sections Thirty-two (32) and Thirty-three (33), Town-