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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-SECOND SESSION

H. F. No. 4800

04/21/2022 Authored by Stephenson

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

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to natural resources; requiring rulemaking to restrict wake surfing on
1.3 Mississippi River in Hennepin and Anoka Counties.

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

1.5 Section 1. RULEMAKING; WAKE SURFING ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN
1.6 HENNEPIN AND ANOKA COUNTIES.

1.7 (a) The commissioner of natural resources must adopt a new part in Minnesota Rules,
1.8 chapter 6110, that conforms with this section. Minnesota Statutes, section 86B.205,
1.9 subdivision 9, does not apply. The rule must apply only to the six-mile pool of the Mississippi
1.10 River from the United States Highway 169 bridge in Champlin to the Coon Rapids Dam.

1.11 (b) For purposes of the rule adopted under this section, "wake surf" means to:

1.12 (1) surf a wake, regardless of whether the surfer is being pulled by a tow rope attached
1.13 to the watercraft that is producing the wake; or

1.14 (2) operate a boat that creates a wake that is, or is intended to be, surfed by another
1.15 person.

1.16 (c) The rule must provide that:

1.17 (1) the operator of a watercraft must not deploy specially designed built-in ballast systems
1.18 or use intentionally placed weight to create increased water displacement for wake surfing
1.19 or any other purpose;

2.1 (2) the rule is not to be construed to prevent a local government from regulating wake
2.2 surfing more than 450 feet from shore in accordance with Minnesota Rules, chapter 6110;
2.3 and

2.4 (3) penalties are as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 86B.811.

2.5 (d) The commissioner may use the good cause exempt procedures under Minnesota
2.6 Statutes, section 14.388, to adopt the rule under this section. Minnesota Statutes, section
2.7 14.386, does not apply, except as provided in Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388.