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HOUSE FILE NO. 278

FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT

January 22, 2007

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

Referred by Chair to Game, Fish and Forestry Division.

February 19, 2007

Returned to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources as Amended.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; imposing a surcharge on deer licenses for reimbursing
1.3 the cost of processing deer donated for charitable purposes; authorizing
1.4 rulemaking; appropriating money; amending Minnesota Statutes 2006, sections
1.5 97A.055, subdivision 4; 97A.065, by adding a subdivision; 97A.475, by adding a
1.6 subdivision; 97A.485, subdivision 7; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota
1.7 Statutes, chapter 97B.

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

1.9 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 97A.055, subdivision 4, is amended to
1.10 read:

1.11 Subd. 4. **Game and fish annual reports.** (a) By December 15 each year,
1.12 the commissioner shall submit to the legislative committees having jurisdiction over
1.13 appropriations and the environment and natural resources reports on each of the following:

1.14 (1) the amount of revenue from the following and purposes for which expenditures
1.15 were made:

1.16 (i) the small game license surcharge under section 97A.475, subdivision 4;

1.17 (ii) the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision
1.18 5, clause (1);

1.19 (iii) the trout and salmon stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 10;

1.20 (iv) the pheasant stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 5, clause (2); ~~and~~

1.21 (v) the turkey stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 5, clause (3); and

1.22 (vi) the deer license surcharge under section 97A.475, subdivision 3a;

1.23 (2) the amounts available under section 97A.075, subdivision 1, paragraphs (b) and

1.24 (c), and the purposes for which these amounts were spent;

2.1 (3) money credited to the game and fish fund under this section and purposes for
2.2 which expenditures were made from the fund;

2.3 (4) outcome goals for the expenditures from the game and fish fund; and

2.4 (5) summary and comments of citizen oversight committee reviews under
2.5 subdivision 4b.

2.6 (b) The report must include the commissioner's recommendations, if any, for
2.7 changes in the laws relating to the stamps and surcharge referenced in paragraph (a).

2.8 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 97A.065, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.9 to read:

2.10 Subd. 6. **Deer license surcharge.** The surcharge collected under section 97A.475,
2.11 subdivision 3a, shall be deposited in a special revenue account and is appropriated to the
2.12 commissioner of agriculture for the venison donation program under section 97B.303.

2.13 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 97A.475, is amended by adding a subdivision
2.14 to read:

2.15 Subd. 3a. **Deer license surcharge.** Fees for annual resident and nonresident licenses
2.16 to take deer by firearms or archery established under subdivisions 2, clauses (4), (5), (9),
2.17 and (11), and 3, clauses (2), (3), and (7), must be increased by a surcharge of \$1, except
2.18 as provided under section 97A.065, subdivision 6. An additional commission may not
2.19 be assessed on the surcharge and the following statement must be included in the annual
2.20 deer hunting regulations: "The \$1 deer license surcharge is being paid by hunters for deer
2.21 management, including assisting with the costs of processing deer donated for charitable
2.22 purposes."

2.23 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2006, section 97A.485, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.24 Subd. 7. **Electronic licensing system commission.** The commissioner shall retain
2.25 for the operation of the electronic licensing system the commission established under
2.26 section 84.027, subdivision 15, and issuing fees collected by the commissioner on all
2.27 license fees collected, excluding:

2.28 (1) the small game surcharge; ~~and~~

2.29 (2) the deer license surcharge; and

2.30 (3) \$2.50 of the license fee for the licenses in section 97A.475, subdivisions 6,
2.31 clauses (1), (2), and (4), 7, 8, 12, and 13.

2.32 Sec. 5. **[97B.303] VENISON DONATIONS.**

3.1 Subdivision 1. **Donating venison.** An individual who takes a deer may donate the
3.2 deer, for distribution to charitable food assistance programs, to a meat processor that is
3.3 licensed under chapter 28A. An individual donating a deer must supply the processor with
3.4 the tag number under which the deer was taken.

3.5 Subd. 2. **Donated venison program.** (a) A meat processor holding a license
3.6 under chapter 28A may apply to the commissioner of agriculture for reimbursement
3.7 of \$70 towards the cost of processing a deer donated according to subdivision 1. The
3.8 meat processor shall deliver the deer, processed into cuts or ground meat, to a charitable
3.9 organization that is registered under chapter 309 and with the commissioner of agriculture
3.10 and that operates a food assistance program. To request reimbursement, the processor
3.11 shall submit an application, on a form prescribed by the commissioner of agriculture, the
3.12 tag number under which the deer was taken and a receipt for the deer from the charitable
3.13 organization.

3.14 (b) The commissioner of agriculture shall ensure the equitable statewide distribution
3.15 of processed deer by requiring the charitable organization to allocate and distribute
3.16 processed deer according to the allocation formula used in the distribution of United States
3.17 Department of Agriculture commodities under the federal emergency food assistance
3.18 program. The charitable organization must submit quarterly reports to the commissioner
3.19 on forms prescribed by the commissioner. The reports must include, but are not limited
3.20 to, information on the amount of processed deer received and the organizations to which
3.21 the meat was distributed.

3.22 (c) The commissioner of agriculture may adopt rules to implement this section.