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State of Minnesota
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-FIFTH
SESSION

HOUSE FILE No. 278

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1.22 (2) the amounts available under section 97A.075, subdivision 1, paragraphs (b) and
1.23 (c), and the purposes for which these amounts were spent;

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

2.1 (4) outcome goals for the expenditures from the game and fish fund; and
2.2 (5) summary and comments of citizen oversight committee reviews under
2.3 subdivision 4b.

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

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

2.8 Subd. 6. **Deer license surcharge.** (a) The surcharge collected under section
2.9 97A.475, subdivision 3a, shall be deposited in a special revenue account and is
2.10 appropriated to the commissioner for deer management, including assisting with the
2.11 cost of processing deer that are donated to charitable food assistance programs. Money
2.12 appropriated for deer management and assisting with the cost of processing deer is
2.13 available until expended. When the unencumbered balance in the account at the end of a
2.14 fiscal year exceeds \$400,000, the commissioner shall cease collection of the deer license
2.15 surcharge specified in section 97A.475, subdivision 3a, until the balance in the account at
2.16 the end of a fiscal year is less than \$400,000.

2.17 (b) A food handler holding a license under chapter 28A may be reimbursed by the
2.18 commissioner for the cost of processing a deer that is donated to a charitable organization
2.19 that is registered under chapter 309 and operates a food assistance program. A food
2.20 handler must apply annually to the commissioner of agriculture for a permit to process
2.21 deer under this subdivision and must receive written approval from the commissioner of
2.22 agriculture before processing a deer for donation.

2.23 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this subdivision, including
2.24 establishment of the reimbursement amount per deer, and may use the rulemaking process
2.25 under section 84.027, subdivision 13, paragraph (b).

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

2.28 Subd. 3a. **Deer license surcharge.** Fees for annual resident and nonresident licenses
2.29 to take deer by firearms or archery established under subdivisions 2, clauses (4), (5), (9),
2.30 and (11), and 3, clauses (2), (3), and (7), must be increased by a surcharge of \$1, except
2.31 as provided under section 97A.065, subdivision 6. An additional commission may not
2.32 be assessed on the surcharge and the following statement must be included in the annual
2.33 deer hunting regulations: "The \$1 deer license surcharge is being paid by hunters for deer

3.1 management, including assisting with the costs of processing deer donated for charitable
3.2 purposes."

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

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

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

3.9 (2) the deer license surcharge; and

3.10 (3) \$2.50 of the license fee for the licenses in section 97A.475, subdivisions 6,

3.11 clauses (1), (2), and (4), 7, 8, 12, and 13.