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State of Minnesota  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**EIGHTY-SIXTH  
SESSION**

**HOUSE FILE No. 376**

January 29, 2009

Authored by Dill

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment Policy and Oversight

March 23, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended

Read Second Time

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; modifying restrictions on youth operation of  
1.3 off-highway motorcycles; adding to state grant-in-aid snowmobile trail system;  
1.4 renaming Northshore Trail; reassigning Boundary Trail to Arrowhead Region  
1.5 Trails; amending Minnesota Statutes 2008, sections 84.793, subdivision 1; 84.83,  
1.6 subdivision 3; 85.015, subdivisions 13, 14.

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

1.8 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 84.793, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

1.9 Subdivision 1. **Prohibitions on youthful operators.** (a) After January 1, 1995, a  
1.10 person less than 16 years of age operating an off-highway motorcycle on public lands  
1.11 or waters must possess a valid off-highway motorcycle safety certificate issued by the  
1.12 commissioner.

1.13 (b) Except for operation on public road rights-of-way that is permitted under section  
1.14 84.795, subdivision 1, a driver's license issued by the state or another state is required to  
1.15 operate an off-highway motorcycle along or on a public road right-of-way.

1.16 (c) A person under 12 years of age may not:

1.17 (1) make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way;

1.18 (2) operate an off-highway motorcycle on a public road right-of-way in the state; or

1.19 (3) operate an off-highway motorcycle on public lands or waters unless accompanied  
1.20 ~~on another off-highway motorcycle~~ by a person 18 years of age or older or participating in  
1.21 an event for which the commissioner has issued a special use permit.

1.22 (d) Except for public road rights-of-way of interstate highways, a person less than 16  
1.23 years of age may make a direct crossing of a public road right-of-way of a trunk, county  
1.24 state-aid, or county highway only if that person is accompanied ~~on another off-highway~~  
1.25 ~~motorcycle~~ by a person 18 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

2.1 (e) A person less than 16 years of age may operate an off-highway motorcycle on  
 2.2 public road rights-of-way in accordance with section 84.795, subdivision 1, paragraph  
 2.3 (a), only if that person is accompanied ~~on another off-highway motorcycle~~ by a person 18  
 2.4 years of age or older who holds a valid driver's license.

2.5 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 84.83, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.6 Subd. 3. **Purposes for the account.** The money deposited in the account and  
 2.7 interest earned on that money may be expended only as appropriated by law for the  
 2.8 following purposes:

2.9 (1) for a grant-in-aid program to counties and municipalities for construction and  
 2.10 maintenance of snowmobile trails, including maintenance of trails on lands and waters of  
 2.11 Voyageurs National Park; ~~on Lake of the Woods; on Rainy Lake, and;~~ on the following  
 2.12 lakes in St. Louis County: Burntside, Crane, Little Long, Mud, Pelican, Shagawa, and  
 2.13 Vermilion; and on the following lakes in Cook County: Devil Track and Hungry Jack;

2.14 (2) for acquisition, development, and maintenance of state recreational snowmobile  
 2.15 trails;

2.16 (3) for snowmobile safety programs; and

2.17 (4) for the administration and enforcement of sections 84.81 to 84.91 and  
 2.18 appropriated grants to local law enforcement agencies.

2.19 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 85.015, subdivision 13, is amended to read:

2.20 Subd. 13. **Arrowhead Region Trails, in Cook, Lake, St. Louis, Pine, Carlton,**  
 2.21 **Koochiching, and Itasca Counties.** (a)(1) The Taconite Trail shall originate at Ely in St.  
 2.22 Louis County and extend southwesterly to Tower in St. Louis County, thence westerly to  
 2.23 McCarthy Beach State Park in St. Louis County, thence southwesterly to Grand Rapids in  
 2.24 Itasca County and there terminate;

2.25 (2) ~~The Northshore~~ C.J. Ramstad Memorial Trail shall originate in Duluth in  
 2.26 St. Louis County and extend northeasterly to Two Harbors in Lake County, thence  
 2.27 northeasterly to Grand Marais in Cook County, thence northeasterly to the international  
 2.28 boundary in the vicinity of the north shore of Lake Superior, and there terminate;

2.29 (3) The Grand Marais to International Falls Trail shall originate in Grand Marais  
 2.30 in Cook County and extend northwesterly, outside of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area,  
 2.31 to Ely in St. Louis County, thence southwesterly along the route of the Taconite Trail to  
 2.32 Tower in St. Louis County, thence northwesterly through the Pelican Lake area in St.  
 2.33 Louis County to International Falls in Koochiching County, and there terminate;

3.1 (4) The Minnesota-Wisconsin Boundary Trail shall originate in Duluth in St. Louis  
3.2 County and extend southerly to St. Croix State Forest in Pine County.

3.3 (b) The trails shall be developed primarily for riding and hiking.

3.4 (c) In addition to the authority granted in subdivision 1, lands and interests in lands  
3.5 for the Arrowhead Region trails may be acquired by eminent domain. Before acquiring  
3.6 any land or interest in land by eminent domain the commissioner of administration shall  
3.7 obtain the approval of the governor. The governor shall consult with the Legislative  
3.8 Advisory Commission before granting approval. Recommendations of the Legislative  
3.9 Advisory Commission shall be advisory only. Failure or refusal of the commission to  
3.10 make a recommendation shall be deemed a negative recommendation.

3.11 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 85.015, subdivision 14, is amended to read:

3.12 Subd. 14. **Willard Munger Trail System, Chisago, Ramsey, Pine, St. Louis,**  
3.13 **Carlton, and Washington Counties.** (a) The trail shall consist of six segments. One  
3.14 segment shall be known as the Gateway Trail and shall originate at the State Capitol  
3.15 and extend northerly and northeasterly to William O'Brien State Park, thence northerly  
3.16 to Taylors Falls in Chisago County. ~~One segment shall be known as the Boundary Trail~~  
3.17 ~~and shall originate in Chisago County and extend into Duluth in St. Louis County.~~ One  
3.18 segment shall be known as the Browns Creek Trail and shall originate at Duluth Junction  
3.19 and extend into Stillwater in Washington County. One segment shall be known as the  
3.20 Munger Trail and shall originate at Hinckley in Pine County and extend through Moose  
3.21 Lake in Carlton County to Duluth in St. Louis County. One segment shall be known  
3.22 as the Alex Laveau Trail and shall originate in Carlton County at Carlton and extend  
3.23 through Wrenshall to the Minnesota-Wisconsin border. One segment shall be established  
3.24 that extends the trail to include the cities of Proctor, Duluth, and Hermantown in St.  
3.25 Louis County.

3.26 (b) The Gateway and Browns Creek Trails shall be developed primarily for hiking  
3.27 and nonmotorized riding and the remaining trails shall be developed primarily for riding  
3.28 and hiking.

3.29 (c) In addition to the authority granted in subdivision 1, lands and interests in lands  
3.30 for the Gateway and Browns Creek Trails may be acquired by eminent domain.

3.31 Sec. 5. **SIGNS.**

3.32 The commissioner of natural resources shall adopt a suitable marking design to  
3.33 mark the C.J. Ramstad Memorial Trail and shall erect the appropriate signs after the

- 4.1 commissioner has been assured of the availability of funds from nonstate sources sufficient
- 4.2 to pay all costs related to designing, erecting, and maintaining the signs.