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HOUSE FILE NO. 297

FIRST COMMITTEE ENGROSSMENT

January 26, 2009

Authored by Hansen; Lillie; Bigham; Murphy, E.; Atkins and others

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

February 12, 2009

Committee Recommendation and Adoption of Report:

To Pass as Amended and re-referred to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections

Referred by Chair to Local Government Division.

March 3, 2009

Returned to the Committee on State and Local Government Operations Reform, Technology and Elections as Amended.

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to dogs; creating a pilot regional dog park permit and matching grant
1.3 program in the Twin Cities metropolitan area; appropriating money; proposing
1.4 coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 473.

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

1.6 Section 1. **[473.361] PILOT REGIONAL DOG PARK PERMIT PROGRAM.**

1.7 (a) The Metropolitan Council must administer a regional dog park permit program in
1.8 the metropolitan area. The Metropolitan Council may charge an administration fee of up
1.9 to \$25 per person or family for a regional dog park permit, which is valid for three years
1.10 from the date of issuance. The council must provide an electronic method for expedient
1.11 permit issuance and renewal. A person may apply for a regional dog park permit on a
1.12 form provided by the Metropolitan Council.

1.13 (b) A local governmental unit must allow a person issued and possessing a valid
1.14 regional dog park permit to use any dog park that is part of the metropolitan area regional
1.15 park and open space system.

1.16 Sec. 2. **[473.3615] DOG PARK MATCHING GRANT PILOT PROGRAM.**

1.17 (a) The Metropolitan Council must administer a dog park matching grant program
1.18 to provide grant funding to local governmental units for the establishment, expansion,
1.19 or maintenance of dog parks within the metropolitan area regional park and open space
1.20 system. No dog park may receive more than \$40,000 in one fiscal year.

1.21 (b) The Metropolitan Council must solicit dog park matching grant proposals
1.22 from local governmental units at least annually, subject to funding availability. Eligible
1.23 applicants must agree in writing to:

2.1 (1) post the minimum dog park rules in paragraph (c);

2.2 (2) provide matching contributions at a rate of at least one to two that may include
2.3 in-kind contributions of land, access roadways and access roadway improvements, and
2.4 necessary landscaping and parking; and

2.5 (3) post a conspicuous sign at major points of entry stating that the dog park was
2.6 funded wholly or partially by the people of Minnesota through a constitutional amendment
2.7 adopted in November 2008. If a standard sign is required by Minnesota Statutes for all
2.8 parks and trails funded wholly or partially by the constitutional amendment, the applicant
2.9 must agree to acquire and post the standard sign.

2.10 The Metropolitan Council must rank eligible dog park proposals that satisfy the
2.11 conditions in clauses (1) to (3) according to criteria that include but are not limited to
2.12 prioritizing a proposed dog park that would be located in a portion of the metropolitan area
2.13 with limited or no public dog park availability and prioritizing the creation of new dog
2.14 parks over the maintenance or expansion of existing dog parks. The Metropolitan Council
2.15 may enter into agreements with local units of government for the purpose of this program.

2.16 (c) Minimum dog park rules are:

2.17 (1) all dogs must enter and exit the park on a leash;

2.18 (2) all dogs must be licensed by the appropriate local authority; and

2.19 (3) dogs under the age of four months are not allowed in the park.

2.20 A local governmental unit may use a portion of any funding received under this
2.21 section to enforce the posted rules at a dog park funded in whole or in part by the dog park
2.22 matching grant program.

2.23 (d) The Metropolitan Parks and Open Space Commission created by section 473.303
2.24 shall advise the council on the implementation and operation of the regional dog park
2.25 permit program in section 473.361 and the dog park matching grant program established
2.26 under this section.

2.27 (e) No later than January 15, 2011, the chair of the Metropolitan Council must
2.28 provide a program report along with any program recommendations to the house of
2.29 representatives and senate committees with jurisdiction over environmental finance
2.30 and, if such committees exist, the house of representatives and senate committees with
2.31 jurisdiction over the allocation of constitutionally dedicated parks and trails funding.

2.32 **Sec. 3. DOG PARK PERMIT AND GRANTS.**

2.33 \$400,000 in fiscal year 2010 and \$400,000 in fiscal year 2011 are appropriated
2.34 from the parks and trails fund established in Minnesota Statutes, section 85.53, to the

3.1 Metropolitan Council for implementation and operation of the regional dog park permit
3.2 program in section 1 and the dog park matching grant program in section 2.

3.3 Sec. 4. **APPLICATION.**

3.4 Sections 1 to 3 apply in the counties of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey,
3.5 Scott, and Washington.