

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETIETH SESSION**

S.F. No. 2985

(SENATE AUTHORS: INGEBRIGTSEN and Westrom)

DATE
03/05/2018

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; imposing moratorium on muskellunge stocking in waters
1.3 in Otter Tail County.

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

1.5 Section 1. MORATORIUM ON STOCKING MUSKELLUNGE IN WATERS OF
1.6 OTTER TAIL COUNTY.

1.7 Subdivision 1. **Moratorium.** Until August 1, 2023, the commissioner of natural resources
1.8 must not stock muskellunge in waters wholly located in Otter Tail County.

1.9 Subd. 2. **Stakeholder group.** The commissioner of natural resources must convene a
1.10 stakeholder group to examine the effect of muskellunge on the environment, waters, and
1.11 native fish of Otter Tail County. The stakeholder group must examine existing scientific
1.12 research and determine whether additional research is necessary. If the stakeholder group
1.13 determines that muskellunge do not pose a threat to the environment, waters, or native fish
1.14 of Otter Tail County, the group may recommend that the legislature repeal or adjust the
1.15 moratorium imposed under subdivision 1.

1.16 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective the day after the Otter Tail County Board
1.17 of Commissioners and its chief clerical officer timely complete their compliance with
1.18 Minnesota Statutes, section 645.021, subdivisions 2 and 3.