

97A.055 GAME AND FISH FUND.

Subdivision 1. **Establishment; purposes.** The game and fish fund is established as a fund in the state treasury.

Subd. 2. **Receipts.** The commissioner of management and budget shall credit to the game and fish fund all money received under the game and fish laws and all income from state lands acquired by purchase or gift for game or fish purposes, including receipts from:

- (1) licenses and permits issued;
- (2) fines and forfeited bail;
- (3) sales of contraband, wild animals, and other property under the control of the division;
- (4) fees from advanced education courses for hunters and trappers;
- (5) reimbursements of expenditures by the division;
- (6) contributions to the division; and
- (7) revenue credited to the game and fish fund under section 297A.94, paragraph (e), clause (1).

Subd. 2a. **Federal aid disposition.** (a) Federal aid reimbursements under the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, United States Code, title 16, sections 669 to 669i, shall be deposited in the game and fish fund.

(b) Federal aid reimbursements under the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act, United States Code, title 16, sections 777 to 777k, shall be deposited in the game and fish fund.

Subd. 3. **Game and fish fund fees.** To reduce yearly fluctuations of the game and fish fund balance and to provide improved long-range planning of the fund, the policy of the state is to make fee adjustments as part of the budget process. Agency responsibilities are:

(a) The commissioner of natural resources must make specific requests for fee adjustments for all receipt items in the game and fish fund as a part of the fee report.

(b) The commissioner of management and budget must review the fee report and make recommendations for each fee. The commissioner of management and budget must submit a six-year projection on revenues and expenditures to the legislature.

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

- (1) the amount of revenue from the following and purposes for which expenditures were made:
 - (i) the small game license surcharge under section 97A.475, subdivision 4;
 - (ii) the Minnesota migratory waterfowl stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 5, clause (1);
 - (iii) the trout and salmon stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 10;
 - (iv) the pheasant stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 5, clause (2);
 - (v) the wild turkey management account under section 97A.075, subdivision 5;

(vi) the deer license donations and surcharges under section 97A.475, subdivisions 3, paragraph (b), and 3a; and

(vii) the walleye stamp under section 97A.475, subdivision 10a;

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

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

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

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

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

Subd. 4a. [Repealed, 2001 c 161 s 58]

Subd. 4b. **Citizen oversight subcommittees.** (a) The commissioner shall appoint subcommittees of affected persons to review the reports prepared under subdivision 4; review the proposed work plans and budgets for the coming year; propose changes in policies, activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; review other relevant information; and make recommendations to the legislature and the commissioner for improvements in the management and use of money in the game and fish fund.

(b) The commissioner shall appoint the following subcommittees, each comprised of at least three affected persons:

(1) a Fisheries Operations Subcommittee to review fisheries funding, excluding activities related to trout and salmon stamp and walleye stamp funding;

(2) a Wildlife Operations Subcommittee to review wildlife funding, excluding activities related to migratory waterfowl, pheasant, and wild turkey management funding and excluding review of the amounts available under section 97A.075, subdivision 1, paragraphs (b) and (c);

(3) a Big Game Subcommittee to review the report required in subdivision 4, paragraph (a), clause (2);

(4) an Ecological Resources Subcommittee to review ecological services funding;

(5) a subcommittee to review game and fish fund funding of enforcement and operations support;

(6) a subcommittee to review the trout and salmon stamp report and address funding issues related to trout and salmon;

(7) a subcommittee to review the report on the migratory waterfowl stamp and address funding issues related to migratory waterfowl;

(8) a subcommittee to review the report on the pheasant stamp and address funding issues related to pheasants;

(9) a subcommittee to review the report on the wild turkey management account and address funding issues related to wild turkeys; and

(10) a subcommittee to review the walleye stamp and address funding issues related to walleye stocking.

(c) The chairs of each of the subcommittees shall form a Budgetary Oversight Committee to coordinate the integration of the subcommittee reports into an annual report to the legislature; recommend changes on a broad level in policies, activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; provide a forum to address issues that transcend the subcommittees; and submit a report for any subcommittee that fails to submit its report in a timely manner.

(d) The Budgetary Oversight Committee shall develop recommendations for a biennial budget plan and report for expenditures on game and fish activities. By August 15 of each even-numbered year, the committee shall submit the budget plan recommendations to the commissioner and to the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over natural resources finance.

(e) Each subcommittee shall choose its own chair, except that the chair of the Budgetary Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the commissioner and may not be the chair of any of the subcommittees.

(f) The Budgetary Oversight Committee must make recommendations to the commissioner and to the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction over natural resources finance for outcome goals from expenditures.

(g) Notwithstanding section 15.059, subdivision 5, or other law to the contrary, the Budgetary Oversight Committee and subcommittees do not expire until June 30, 2010.

Subd. 5. Pelting fees. The commissioner may pay a pelting fee to a person who recovers, treats, preserves, or transports the pelt of a fur-bearing animal that is accidentally killed or is lawfully taken under section 97B.655. The commissioner may adopt rules setting pelting fees and governing their payment. The amounts necessary to pay the fees are appropriated from the game and fish fund to the commissioner.

History: 1986 c 386 art 1 s 10; 1987 c 149 art 1 s 7; 1989 c 335 art 1 s 85; 1993 c 172 s 51,52; 1993 c 231 s 7; 1994 c 561 s 2,3; 1996 c 364 s 1,2; 2000 c 418 art 1 s 44; 2000 c 463 s 2,3; 2000 c 488 art 3 s 26; 1Sp2001 c 2 s 105; 2002 c 376 s 6; 2003 c 112 art 2 s 50; 2004 c 228 art 1 s 21; 2004 c 255 s 27; 1Sp2005 c 1 art 2 s 95; 2006 c 281 art 2 s 17; 2007 c 57 art 1 s 80; 2008 c 357 s 24; 2008 c 368 art 2 s 12,13; 2009 c 101 art 2 s 109