

HF4508 - 0 - Live Cervidae Importation Elk Exemption Est.

Chief Author: **Josh Heintzeman**
 Committee: **Agriculture Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **4/7/2026 1:31:28 PM**
 Lead Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**
 Other Agencies:
 Administrative Hearings Animal Health Board

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions shown in the parentheses.

State Cost (Savings)	Biennium			Biennium		
	Dollars in Thousands	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
State Total						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium	
	FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-

Lead LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jordan Peoples **Date:** 4/7/2026 1:31:28 PM
Phone: 651-296-6044 **Email:** jordan.peoples@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

This table shows direct impact to state government only. Local government impact, if any, is discussed in the narrative. Reductions are shown in parentheses.

*Transfers In/Out and Absorbed Costs are only displayed when reported.

State Cost (Savings) = 1-2		Biennium			Biennium	
Dollars in Thousands		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total		-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total				-		-

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 Agency: **Natural Resources Dept**

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Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
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Biennial Total			-			-

Full Time Equivalent Positions (FTE)	Biennium			Biennium		
		FY2025	FY2026	FY2027	FY2028	FY2029
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jordan Peoples **Date:** 4/7/2026 1:27:09 PM
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Biennial Total			-			-
1 - Expenditures, Absorbed Costs*, Transfers Out*						
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-
2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
Total	-	-	-	-	-	-
Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

This bill amends Minnesota Statutes § 35.155 to allow the importation of elk into Minnesota under conditions established by the Board of Animal Health. The bill does not create new regulatory programs but modifies existing restrictions on Cervidae importation.

Assumptions

We assume this proposal may be for the purposes of wild elk restoration/translocation. Elk importation is expected to be limited in scope, estimated at 1-5 import events annually. Small herd transfers may occur to include 1-50 elk each year. DNR does not have information on the level of interest or frequency of potential farmed elk importation.

Board of Animal Health would continue administration (import permits, certificates of veterinary inspection, chronic wasting disease compliance requirements).

The Department of Natural Resources would retain authority for enforcement actions, including seizure and depopulation if necessary, this includes wild Cervidae disease as well as ongoing surveillance management. Based on the limited scope of importation, we anticipate no measurable increase in enforcement-related costs.

We assume existing fee structures (permits, inspections) remain unchanged.

If Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) were detected in a new area in Minnesota, this would trigger a minimum of \$1.5M in expenses across three years for long-term statewide efforts to monitor, prevent, and respond to CWD. This estimate includes enhanced surveillance, testing, data management, and interagency coordination necessary to mitigate disease risk associated with cervid populations.

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

No significant change in state revenue. Any incremental permit activity is expected to be negligible.

No additional expenditures are required under current assumptions. All activities are absorbed within existing appropriations.

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

While no immediate fiscal impact is anticipated, the following risks are noted:

If CWD is detected there is a potential for future costs to include surveillance expansion, herd depopulation and indemnity (farmed Cervidae), population management (wild Cervidae). If elk are imported from a state that has detected CWD and subsequently released in Minnesota, DNR would likely need to conduct a risk assessment and determine the need for proactive CWD surveillance to protect the long-term health of wild Cervidae populations in Minnesota.

If CWD is detected in imported elk, disease sampling (of harvested deer and any elk that are harvested or die) in the area would be required for at least three (3) years, consistent with the Minnesota DNR Surveillance and Management Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease in Free-ranging Cervids in Minnesota. The annual cost of surveillance in a new area is \$500,000 (\$1.5M over 3 years). Continued expansion of CWD in Minnesota could have negative long-term impacts on deer hunter participation and license revenues.

Local Fiscal Impact

None

References/Sources

Surveillance and Management Plan for Chronic Wasting Disease in Free-ranging Cervids in Minnesota:
https://files.dnr.state.mn.us/wildlife/research/health/disease/cwd/cwd_responseplan.pdf?v=2025.07.29-10.00.23

Agency Contact: Linda Kelly (651) 259-5238

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: Tyler Teggatz

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Chief Author: **Josh Heintzeman**
 Committee: **Agriculture Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **4/7/2026 1:31:28 PM**
 Agency: **Administrative Hearings**

State Fiscal Impact	Yes	No
Expenditures		X
Fee/Departmental Earnings		X
Tax Revenue		X
Information Technology		X
Local Fiscal Impact		X

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Total	-	-	-	-	-

LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Adam Bolling **Date:** 3/31/2026 10:59:37 AM
Phone: 651-296-6053 **Email:** adam.bolling@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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	Biennial Total			-		-
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2 - Revenues, Transfers In*						
	Total	-	-	-	-	-
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Bill Description

HF4508 exempts elk from the live Cervidae importation prohibition within Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 12.

Assumptions

The Court of Administrative Hearings (CAH) in consultation with Minnesota Management and Budget (MMB) assesses agencies the cost of services rendered to them. All agencies shall include in their budget provisions for such assessments.

CAH has used the Department of Natural Resources and Animal Health Board assumptions that no rulemaking costs nor contested case costs will be incurred from this bill, so HF4508 will have no fiscal impact on CAH.

CAH currently bills ALJ time for rulemaking and contested cases at the MMB-approved billable rate of \$270 per hour (see Minn. Stat. § 16A.126, subd. 1 (2023)).

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

Agency Contact: William Moore

Agency Fiscal Note Coordinator Signature: William Moore

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 Committee: **Agriculture Finance And Policy**
 Date Completed: **4/7/2026 1:31:28 PM**
 Agency: **Animal Health Board**

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LBO Analyst's Comment

I have reviewed this fiscal note for reasonableness of content and consistency with the LBO's Uniform Standards and Procedures.

LBO Signature: Jordan Peoples **Date:** 3/20/2026 9:31:18 AM
Phone: 651-296-6044 **Email:** jordan.peoples@lbo.mn.gov

State Cost (Savings) Calculation Details

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Biennial Total			-			-

Bill Description

A bill for an act relating to agriculture; exempting elk from live Cervidae importation prohibition; amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 12

Assumptions

The MN Board of Animal Health assumes there will be no fiscal impact of agency by adding "except elk" into Subd 12 of Section 35.155

Expenditure and/or Revenue Formula

N/A

Long-Term Fiscal Considerations

N/A

Local Fiscal Impact

References/Sources

HF 4508

Agency Contact:

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