

Subject Swans  
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### Overview

This bill establishes the “Minnesota Swan Protection Act” which includes a number of provisions designed to protect native swans, including increased penalties, restricting the use of lead tackle in certain areas where swans breed, and appropriating money for education and outreach and for a lead tackle collection program.

### Summary

Section	Description
1	<p><b>Native swan.</b></p> <p>Defines “native swan” for purposes of the game and fish laws as trumpeter and tundra swans and excludes mute swans.</p>
2	<p><b>Swans.</b></p> <p>States that a person who takes, harasses, destroys, buys, sells, possesses, transports, or ships a native swan in violation of the game and fish laws is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.</p>
3	<p><b>Breeding-swan waters; use of lead tackle.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Breeding-swan waters.</b> Allows the commissioner of natural resources to designate breeding-swan waters when one or more pairs of breeding swans frequent the water and nest nearby.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Public notice and meeting.</b> Requires a public meeting to be held prior to designating or removing a designation of a breeding-swan water. The meeting must be held in the county where the largest portion of the water is located. Requires notices of the meeting, including requiring notice to be posted at public access sites for the water.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Using lead tackle.</b> Prohibits a person from using lead tackle on waters designated as breeding-swan waters. Requires the commissioner to maintain a</p>

**Section** **Description**

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list of breeding-swan waters and types of tackle prohibited on the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR's) website and in the summary of fishing regulations.

**4 Swan restitution values; rule amendments.**

Requires the commissioner of natural resources to amend DNR rules to increase the restitution value for a tundra swan (from \$200 to \$1,000) and a trumpeter swan (from \$1,000 to \$2,500). Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking to do so.

**5 Title.**

States that the act may be cited as the "Minnesota Swan Protection Act."

**6 Swan protection education and outreach; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the DNR to provide education and outreach promoting the protection of swans.

**7 Lead tackle collection program; appropriation.**

Appropriates an unspecified amount from the general fund to the DNR to establish a lead tackle collection program.



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