

H.F. 1562

As Introduced

Subject DNR Policy

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Overview

This bill contains a number of policy provisions being proposed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Summary

Section Description

1 Account to invest financial assurance money from permits to mine.

Allows the State Board of Investment (SBI) to invest financial assurance money collected by the DNR under a permit to mine at the request of the DNR. Allows the SBI to establish accounts to deposit financial assurance money and restricts the use of the accounts to financial assurance purposes as provided under statute, rule, and any agreements and conditions established in the permit. Appropriates the money to the DNR for those purposes. Allows the DNR to deposit and withdraw money in the accounts subject to SBI policies and procedures. Requires investment strategies to be jointly determined by the DNR and SBI. Requires investment earnings to be credited to the applicable account. Allows the DNR to terminate an account at any time if allowed under applicable statute, rules, agreements, and permit conditions and in accordance with SBI policies and procedures.

2 Priorities; report.

Changes the date the DNR must submit an annual report listing the projects funded with money from a natural resource asset preservation and replacement appropriation from January 15 to March 1.

3 State Park Open House Days.

Exempts registered overnight guests in state parks and state recreation areas from state park permit requirements during State Park Open House Days until after check-out time the following day.

Section Description

4 Restrictions related to motor vehicles.

Prohibits a person from shooting a firearm or arrow from a motor vehicle at a decoy of a wild animal placed by a licensed peace officer.

5 Clothing and ground blind requirements; blaze orange or blaze pink.

Requires a person in a fabric or synthetic ground blind on public land during the open deer hunting season to have a blaze orange or blaze pink safety covering on the blind visible for 360 degrees around the blind or have at least 144 square inches of blaze orange or blaze pink material on each side of the blind.

6 Restrictions on certain motorized decoys.

Removes restrictions on the use of motorized decoys designed to attract migratory waterfowl that apply during a portion of the duck season and within wildlife management areas. Allows the DNR to adopt rules designating wetlands and lakes closed to the use of motorized decoys during the entire duck season.

7 Taking methods prohibited.

Prohibits a person from taking turtles with firearms and ammunition, bows and arrows, crossbows, spears, harpoons, or other implements that can impale turtles.

8 Turtle species; limits.

Restricts the possession of turtles by: establishing limits and restrictions for the possession of western painted turtles (no more than three and they must be between 4 and 5½ inches in shell length); prohibiting the possession of spiny softshell turtles after December 1, 2021, without an aquatic farm or private fish hatchery license; and prohibiting the possession of turtles other than snapping, western painted, and spiny softshell without an aquatic farm or private fish hatchery license.



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