

Subject Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Policy

Authors Hansen, R. and Lee, F.

Analyst Janelle Taylor

Date March 20, 2023

Overview

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

Summary

Section	Description
---------	-------------

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1 | <p>Account to invest financial assurance money from permits to mine.</p> <p>Allows the State Board of Investment (SBI), if requested by the DNR, to invest money received for permit to mine financial assurance purposes. Allows the SBI to establish one or more accounts and requires the money to be used for financial assurance purposes, or as authorized under any trust fund agreement or conditions under a permit to mine. Allows the DNR to deposit and withdraw money from the accounts. Requires investment strategies to be determined jointly by the DNR and SBI. Requires investment earnings to be credited to the appropriate account. Allows the DNR to terminate an account subject to certain conditions.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Application, issuance, issuing fee.</p> <p>Requires snowmobile registration numbers to be printed on a decal and affixed to the snowmobile. Current law requires registration numbers to be affixed to the snowmobile.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Display of registration decal.</p> <p>Requires a person to have a current snowmobile registration decal affixed to each side of a snowmobile in order to operate or transport it and specifies how the decal must be affixed. Under current law, registration numbers are required to be affixed to the snowmobile.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Area for registration number.</p> <p>Statutorily requires snowmobiles made after June 30, 1972, and sold in Minnesota to have a clear area on each side of the cowling meeting certain requirements (this is currently required in a rule being repealed in section 37).</p> |

Section	Description
5	Required rules, fees, and reports. Makes conforming changes related to the requirement for snowmobile decals and makes other technical updates.
6	Program. Expands the Minnesota Naturalist Corps program purposes to include supporting state trails (in addition to state parks which is stated under current law).
7	Eligibility. Modifies eligibility requirements for participation in the Minnesota Natural Corps, including no longer requiring a person to: be a Minnesota resident; be participating in certain fields of study; or have at least one year of postsecondary education.
8	Luce Line Trail, Hennepin, McLeod, and Meeker Counties. Expands the authorization of the Luce Line State Trail to include a connection to Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.
9	State park reservation system. Allows the DNR to develop reasonable reservation policies for day-use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals, in addition to campsites and lodging as allowed under current law.
10	Deferred payments. Allows a payment for timber to be postmarked within 30 days of a statement date before interest begins to accrue. Under current law, payment is required within 30 days of the statement date before interest begins to accrue.
11	Wanton waste. Exempts common carp on the prohibition on wantonly wasting or destroying a usable part of a protected animal.
12	Walk-in access program. Expands the purpose of the walk-in access program to include providing access for bird-watching, nature photography, and similar compatible uses.
13	Use of motorized vehicles by people with disabilities. Modifies a provision allowing the use of motorized vehicles in a wildlife management area (WMA) under a special permit issued by the DNR to a person with a disability. The changes include no longer requiring the disability to be permanent, no longer requiring a hunting license, requiring the vehicles to meet a federal definition for

Section	Description
	“other power-driven mobility devices,” and requiring the person to provide credible assurance that the device or motorboat is being used because of the disability.
14	Commissioner’s authority. Technical change related to the next section.
15	Taking wild animals with federal incidental take permit. Allows the DNR to issue permits to a person to take wild animals under a federal incidental take permit.
16	Resident licenses. Modifies requirements for obtaining resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to allow a valid driver’s license or identification card application receipt that is at least 60 days past the issuance date and Tribal identification cards to be used as proof of residency. Prohibits a person from obtaining a resident license if they have been issued a resident license by another state or country within 60 days of applying.
17	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 material on each side of the blind.
18	Limit of one deer. Clarifies that a person may not take more than one deer unless otherwise allowed.
19	Residents or nonresidents under age 18; taking either-sex deer. Prohibits a member of a hunting party from tagging a deer using another person’s youth hunting tag (under current law the prohibition applies only to antlerless deer).
20	Shotgun use area. States that during any firearm season in the shotgun use area, only certain legal firearms, which includes muzzleloaders, are allowed. Under current law, the provision only applies during the regular firearms season.
21	Plan for elk management. Removes restrictions on managing elk in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, and Beltrami Counties.
22	Animals causing damage. Allows a property owner, the owner’s immediate family, or an agent of the property owner to nonlethally scare, haze, chase, or harass deer or elk causing damage to

Section	Description
	agricultural crops under certain conditions and restrictions. Requires any resulting death of a deer or elk to be reported to the DNR's Division of Fish and Wildlife within 24 hours.
23	Commissioner may remove rough fish and catfish. Removes certain provisions allowing the DNR to take fish with seines, nets and other devices, including no longer taking lake whitefish and catfish on Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters.
24	Lines. Allows the use of two lines when fishing the Minnesota River downstream of the Granite Falls Dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls.
25	When use prohibited. Clarifies the dates when fish may not be taken by certain methods.
26	Felt-soled waders. Prohibits the use of felt-soled waders in waters of the state.
27	Species allowed. Allows cisco to be taken by spear.
28	Dark houses required for certain species. Requires cisco taken by spear to be taken from a dark house.
29	Open season. Clarifies the dates for the spear fishing season.
30	Dates for certain species. Clarifies the dates for fishing seasons for certain species.
31	Season. Clarifies the dates for the frog season.
32	Lake Superior lake trout; expanded assessment harvest. Clarifies certain dates when commercial lake trout fishing is allowed in Lake Superior.
33	Filing application. Requires a copy of an application, including maps, plans and specifications, for a public waters work permit to be served to the Tribal chair of a federally recognized

Section	Description
	Tribe if the activities will take place within the boundaries of the Tribe’s reservation or Tribal community.
34	Recommendation of local units of government and federally recognized Indian Tribes. Allows a federally recognized Tribe notified of an application in the previous section to submit recommendations to the DNR or request a Tribal consultation within 30 days. States that if Tribal consultation is requested, that a permit application is not complete until after the consultation occurs or 90 days, whichever comes first.
35	Required rulemaking. Requires the DNR to amend rules to conform to the snowmobile registration display modifications and the changes to the walk-in access program made in the bill. Allows the DNR to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking to do so.
36	Registration decal format transition. Provides for the transition from the old snowmobile registration number display requirements to the new snowmobile registration decal requirements established in the bill.
37	Repealer. Repeals Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.055 (a requirement of the DNR to remove dead fish on the shores of public waters) and Minnesota Rules, parts 6100.5000, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6100.5700, subpart 4 (snowmobile registration number related rules).



**MN HOUSE
RESEARCH**

Minnesota House Research Department provides nonpartisan legislative, legal, and information services to the Minnesota House of Representatives. This document can be made available in alternative formats.

www.house.mn/hrd | 651-296-6753 | 155 State Office Building | St. Paul, MN 55155