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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 4508

03/18/2026

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The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Agriculture Finance and Policy

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to agriculture; exempting elk from live Cervidae importation prohibition;
- 1.3 amending Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 12.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2025 Supplement, section 35.155, subdivision 12, is amended
- 1.6 to read:
- 1.7 Subd. 12. **Importation.** (a) A person must not import live Cervidae, except elk, into the
- 1.8 state from a state or province where chronic wasting disease has been detected in the farmed
- 1.9 or wild cervid population in the last five years unless the animal has tested not detected for
- 1.10 chronic wasting disease with a validated live-animal test.
- 1.11 (b) Live Cervidae or Cervidae semen must originate from a herd that has been subject
- 1.12 to a state-, federal-, or provincial-approved chronic wasting disease herd certification program
- 1.13 and that has reached a status equivalent to the highest certification.
- 1.14 (c) Cervidae imported in violation of this section may be seized and destroyed by the
- 1.15 commissioner of natural resources.
- 1.16 (d) This subdivision does not apply to the interstate transfer of animals between two
- 1.17 facilities accredited by the Association of Zoos and Aquariums.
- 1.18 (e) Notwithstanding this subdivision, the commissioner of natural resources may issue
- 1.19 a permit allowing the importation of orphaned wild cervid species that are not susceptible
- 1.20 to chronic wasting disease from another state to an Association of Zoos and Aquariums
- 1.21 accredited institution in Minnesota following a joint risk-based assessment conducted by
- 1.22 the commissioner and the institution.

- 2.1 (f) Notwithstanding this subdivision, the state veterinarian may issue a permit to a zoo
2.2 that is a United States Department of Agriculture licensed exhibitor of regulated animals
2.3 to import live reindeer from another state if the reindeer are part of a herd that is:
- 2.4 (1) in the United States Department of Agriculture Herd Certification Program; or
- 2.5 (2) subject to similar equivalent disease surveillance at the discretion of the state
2.6 veterinarian.