

2021 Policy and Technical Bill

Factsheet



Why is this bill needed?

Each year, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposes changes a suite of policy-related and technical changes for multiple programs the DNR administers. The proposed changes help us to be adaptive in our management of the state's natural resources and responsive to public input.

Major proposal elements

This bill makes technical or policy changes in law to enable the DNR to better manage its programs and Minnesota's natural resources.

- Allow the DNR to invest financial assurance money from mining permits through the State Board of Investment;
- Adjust the report deadline for natural resource asset preservation and replacement projects in order to allow all necessary information to be included;
- Waive state park permit requirement for overnight guests during open house days;

- Make it illegal for a person to shoot an enforcement related decoy from a motor vehicle;
- Require blaze orange or pink for ground blinds on public land during the deer firearms season;
- Allow motorized decoys throughout the waterfowl season;
- Reduce excess harvest of turtle populations by prohibiting the take of turtles using firearms, bows, and spears;
- Protect the vulnerable spiny softshell turtle by disallowing take.

Fiscal impacts

This proposal does not have a fiscal impact.

Statute proposals

Financial Assurance Investment

Sec 1. Amends 11A.236 to allow the DNR to invest financial assurance money collected from mining permits through the State Board of Investment.

Natural Resource Asset Preservation Project Reporting

Sec 2. Amends M.S. 84.946 to adjust the reporting deadline for natural resource asset preservation and replacement projects.

State Park Open House Days - Clarification

Sec 3. Amends M.S. 85.054 to waive the state park vehicle permit for guests staying overnight on state park open house days.

Amendments to Game and Fish Statues

Sec 4. Amends M.S. 97B.055 to make illegal to shoot a decoy placed by a conservation officer from a vehicle.

Sec 5. Amends M.S. 97B.071 to require blaze orange or pink for ground blinds on public land during the deer firearms season.

Sec 6. Amends M.S. 97B.811 to allow motorized decoys throughout the waterfowl season.

Sec 7. Amends M.S. 97C.605 to prohibit the take of turtles using firearms, bows, and spears. These capture methods contribute to excessive and unsustainable harvest.

Sec 8. Amends M.S. 97C.611 to prohibit the take of spiny softshell turtles due to the vulnerability of this species.

For more information contact:

Bob Meier, Assistant Commissioner
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Rd, St. Paul, MN 55155-4047
Phone: 651-259-5024
Email: bob.meier@state.mn.us



This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing info.dnr@state.mn.us or calling 651-259-5016.