

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

Contains a variety of disparate provisions pertaining to game and fish programs.

- 1 **Farmed cervidae.** Expands the allowed purposes for raising farmed cervidae to include "shooting" and "harvesting."
- 2 **Raising farmed cervidae is an agricultural pursuit.** Expands the existing declaration that raising farmed cervidae is an agricultural pursuit by clarifying that the animals may be sold for personal consumption or taken on a licensed shooting preserve.
- 3 **Slaughter.** Narrows the application of the requirement that farmed cervidae be slaughtered and inspected under an approved federal inspection program. Only animals sold for commercial meat purposes must now meet this requirement.
- 4 **Cervidae shooting preserves.** Establishes standards and licensing fees for a cervidae shooting preserve. Provides in subdivisions 1 to 16 that:
The annual license fee is \$900. The commissioner of agriculture may license up to 10 cervidae shooting preserves in the state.
Only animals from herds in the accredited program of the board of animal health may be released on a licensed shooting preserve.
A shooting preserve must be physically separated from breeding pens or pastures where farmed cervidae are kept.
A shooting preserve must be not less than 240 nor more than 960 contiguous acres in size and have adequate screening cover for the animals. Fences must be at least 96 inches tall and boundaries of the preserve must be posted.
Wild cervidae must be removed from the preserve before farmed cervidae are introduced.
The hunting season on a cervidae shooting preserve is August 15 through March 31, and a patron is not required to obtain a state hunting license.

Weapons used on the preserve must comply with those authorized to take wild cervidae in the same area.

The operator of a shooting preserve may establish more restrictive regulations than the minimum provided in law.

Cervidae released on a shooting preserve must bear a permanent identification mark. Harvested cervidae must be tagged during transport.

The operator of the shooting preserve must keep extensive records which must be open to inspection by the department of agriculture at reasonable times.

5 **Wildlife acquisition account.** Adds \$4 a year for certain individual lifetime licenses to be placed in the wildlife acquisition account.

6 **Deer management revenue.** Increases money under certain licenses for deer management purposes.

7-8 **Technical for lifetime license.**

9 **Deer license for agricultural landowners.** Allows a free license to take a deer of either sex to an owner or tenant living and farming on at least 80 acres of an agricultural land, and within certain deer permit areas.

10 **Lifetime license.** Allows lifetime resident angling, small game, firearms, deer, and sporting licenses to be issued for specified fees.

11 **Nonresident eligibility.** Allows the same licenses as above to be issued as lifetime for nonresidents.

12 **Lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund.** Creates a lifetime fish and wildlife trust fund in the state treasury, with receipts from the licenses issued, to be equally available for habitat improvement and species stocking expenditures. Only the interest earnings from the fund are available for disbursement. Fee adjustments by the commissioner of natural resources are provided for. An annual report detailing the project expenditures from the fund is required to be given to the house and senate natural resources finance committees.

13 **Antlered buck season.** Creates an antlered buck season throughout the state for a \$66 license and allows one antlered deer by firearm and one by archery for \$44.

14 **Technical.**

15 **Big game tags.** Changes present law by saying tags must be attached to big game when the animal is in a camp, a place occupied overnight, the surrounding yard, or on a motor vehicle.

16 **Provisional certificate.** Allows a provisional firearms safety certificate for certain people with mental disabilities.

17 **Technical.**

18 **Firearms and big game.** Removes the case length requirement in taking big game.

19 **Bow transportation.** Permits archery bows in the rear-most enclosed portion of a motor vehicle to be legally transported.

20 **Rough fish by bow.** Allows uncased bows, while in electric powered boats, to be used to take rough fish.

21 **Blaze orange.** Removed trappers, other than during the firearms deer season, and falconers from wearing blaze orange.

22 **Hunting by mentally disabled.** Allows mentally disabled persons to obtain a firearms hunting license under specified conditions.

23 **Crossbow hunting.** States that a verified permanent physical disability allows a person to apply for a lifetime crossbow permit.

- **Technical.**

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- 26 **Deer hunting in northwestern Minnesota.** Extends opportunity to take two deer in six northwestern counties, adding Polk.
- 27 **Combined license.** Effectuates the provisions of section 13 in taking two deer by each method.
- 28 **Buck license.** Creates an all-season buck license.
- 29 **Experimental waters.** Increases designated experimental waters up to 200 lakes and 50 streams.
- 30 Provides certain criteria that must be met for a fishing contest to be conducted without a permit.
- 31 Provides for a free permit to conduct a fishing contest that does not meet the criteria of section 30.
- 32 Establishes a process for fishing contest permit applications.
- 33 Requires that at least two weekends per month have no fishing contests on all waters 55,000 acres or less.
- 34 Places limits on the number of fishing contests allowed on waters based on a certain size.
- 35 Sets permit restrictions for fishing contests.
- 36 Provides definitions related to fishing contests for the purposes of this bill.
- 37 **Bowfishing exemption.** Allows a bow used to take rough fish to be transported uncased in a motorboat.
- 38 **Yellow perch.** Creates, until March 1, 2001, a daily limit for yellow perch being 20 or more and possession limit being 50 or more.
- 39 **Appropriation.** Appropriates \$25,000 in FY 2001 to market lifetime licenses.
- 40 **Effective date.** Contains various effective dates.