

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill does three things: it prohibits local governments from limiting operations of shooting ranges by ordinance; it governs when and how state or local governments may require a shooting range to relocate or close; and it provides that shooting ranges cannot be declared nuisances.

- 1 **Policy.** States the policy of the state is to implement the constitutional right to hunt and promote the safety and enjoyment of shooting sports by preserving shooting ranges.
- 2 **Definitions.**
 - Subd. 1. Applicability.** Provides for the definitions to apply to sections 2 to 7.
 - Subd. 2. Person.** Includes an individual, association, proprietorship, partnership, corporation, club, political subdivision, or other legal entity.
 - Subd. 3. Shooting range or range.** Means an area or facility for the use of firearms or archery. Includes a shooting preserve.
 - Subd. 4. Generally accepted operation practices.** Means the voluntary guidelines adopted by the commissioner of natural resources for shooting ranges. Directs how the commissioner should develop the guidelines. Requires review and revision of the guidelines at least every five years. Requires the initial guidelines to be adopted by July 1, 1999.
 - Subd. 5. Unit of government.** Means a home rule charter or statutory city, county, town, municipal corporation, or other political subdivision, or any instrumentality of a political subdivision.
- 3 **Local ordinances; existing operations.** Requires a unit of government to permit existing shooting ranges to continue operation even if the local zoning ordinance for the area changes. Specifies what a shooting range following generally accepted operation practices must be allowed to do. Permits enforcement of an agreement entered into before March 1, 1999, between a unit of government and a range operator in Washington county.
- 4 **Closing shooting ranges; payment of certain costs.**

Subd. 1. When can close or relocate. Permits a shooting range to be closed or relocated only if, because of a new permitted development of adjacent land, the range becomes a clear, immediate, and proven safety hazard to the adjacent population and it cannot be made safe.

Subd. 2. Procedure. Requires a contested case hearing to prove a clear and immediate safety hazard. Specifies notice and other procedures. Provides that if a range is found to be a hazard but can be made safe with range improvements, the government must pay for the range improvements.

Subd. 3. Closure. Permits closure of a hazardous range if the government pays the fair market value of the range operation as a going concern as well as the fair market value of the land and improvements.

Subd. 4. Relocation. Permits the government to use eminent domain to acquire land to relocate a shooting range that is found to be a hazard.

Subd. 5. Transfer of title. Requires the range owner to transfer title to the property to the government after payment for closure or after relocation is complete.

5 Irrebuttable presumption; nuisance liability. Establishes an irrebuttable presumption that a shooting range operated in compliance with generally accepted operation practices is not a public or private nuisance.

6 Shooting ranges; noise standards. Provides that an owner or operator of a shooting range is subject only to specified state noise standards that are in effect on March 1, 1999.

7 Nuisance actions; substantial compliance with generally accepted operation practices. Provides that owners, operators, and users of shooting ranges that are in compliance with generally accepted operation practices are not subject to any action for nuisance, and a court cannot enjoin or restrain operation or use of the range. Permits actions for personal injury resulting from recklessness or negligence.

8 Effective date. Day after final enactment.