

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Licensed Shooting Preserves

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Overview

Farmed cervidae (elk, fallow deer, and other members of the cervidae family) were granted status as agricultural products by the 1993 legislature. House file 747 expands the allowed purposes of farmed cervidae to include stocking them on licensed shooting preserves.

Section

- 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 procedures for a cervidae shooting preserve.
 - Subd. 1. License fees; renewal.** The license fee the first year of operation is \$1,000 plus \$100 for each month of operation. Annual renewal fees are \$1,000.
 - Subd. 2. Shooting preserve application.** The commissioner of natural resources may license up to 10 cervidae shooting preserves.
 - Subd. 3. Licenses.** The commissioner of natural resources is to issue licenses for cervidae shooting preserves around the state after consultation with the commissioner of agriculture. A site inspection is required before a license is issued unless the commissioner waives the inspection.
 - Subd. 4. Stocked game.** The license must list the game that will be stocked on the preserve. All

farmed cervidae must be from board of animal health approved herds.

Subd. 5. Size of preserve; cover required. A shooting preserve must be not less than 320 nor more than 960 continuous acres in size and have adequate screening cover for the animals.

Subd. 6. Posting of boundaries. Boundaries of the preserve must be clearly posted, including required signage at least every 500 feet around the entire perimeter.

Subd. 7. Fencing and enclosures. Fences around the preserve must be at least 96 inches tall.

Subd. 8. Removal of wild cervidae. All wild cervidae must be removed from the preserve before the license is issued.

Subd. 9. Revocation of license. A license may be revoked for violation of any of the terms of the license.

Subd. 10. Hunting license not required. A hunting license is not required on the preserve.

Subd. 11. Season. A shooting preserve can operate from August 15 to December 31, unless a shorter season is ordered by the commissioner.

Subd. 12. Weapons limitations. Weapons used on the preserve must comply with those authorized to take wild cervidae in the same area.

Subd. 13. Licensee may establish restrictions. Within established laws and rules, the licensee of a shooting preserve has the right to determine charges, shooting season and hours, and other restrictions.

Subd. 14. Identification and marking of cervidae. All cervidae used on the shooting preserve must be identified by tattoo, electronic implant, or other means.

Subd. 15. Marking harvested cervidae. Cervidae harvested on a shooting preserve must be tagged or marked for transport.

Subd. 16. Recordkeeping. A shooting preserve must maintain thorough records as to patrons and animals raised, released, and harvested.

Subd. 17. Disposition of fees. Fees from cervidae shooting preserves licenses are appropriated to the commissioner of natural resources to administer and enforce this law.