

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Veterans; Preference in certain hunting license lotteries

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Overview

Current game and fish law authorizes the Commissioner of Natural Resources, at the Commissioner's discretion, to provide first preference to certain eligible service members and veterans in any drawing or lottery involving the selection of applicants for hunting or fishing licenses, permits, and special permits.

This bill would change *may* to *shall*, thereby making that authorization mandatory.

Under current law, the term *qualified service member or veteran* is defined to mean any Minnesota resident who is currently serving, or has served within the past 24 months, in any branch or unit of the United States Armed Forces, including the National Guard and Reserves.

Under the bill, eligibility for the preference would be expanded to include:

- 1) Any person who has been awarded a Purple Heart Medal, irrespective of the proximity of the person's military service; and
- 2) Any service member or veteran having a 100 percent service-connected disability, as determined by the USVA.