

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Firearm silencers; authorizing use in testing by firearms manufacturers

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Overview

With certain exceptions, Minnesota Statutes, section 609.66, subdivision 1a, paragraph (a), clause (1), *prohibits the possession and use of firearm silencers* within this state.

Subdivision 1h of the same statute (being proposed for amendment by this bill) states exceptions for certain law enforcement and wildlife control activities, as well as for museums and art collectors.

This bill would create another exception, by authorizing a federally licensed firearms manufacturer to possess and use silencers *for the exclusive purpose of testing firearms manufactured for sale to police and military agencies* (but not to individual police and military members).

The bill requires the firearms manufacturer:

- (1) to possess a Manufacturers Type 7 Federal Firearms License;
- (2) to possess proof of registration of the silencer in the National Firearms Registration and Transfer Record System; and
- (3) to notify the sheriff of the county(ies) in which the silencer(s) will be used for testing the firearms.