

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Subject: Use of Laser Sights by Visually Impaired Hunters

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Overview

This bill would allow visually impaired hunters to use laser sights while hunting under certain circumstances.

Section

1 Laser sights; visually impaired. Adds § 97B.031, subd. 6. Allows the commissioner of natural resources to issue permits to visually impaired hunters to allow the use of laser sights. The hunter may only use a laser sight when hunting on their own land, land they've been given written permission to hunt on, or when participating in a special hunt sponsored by a nonprofit organization and permitted by the commissioner (currently, only hunters who are totally blind participating in special hunts permitted by the commissioner may use a laser sight).

The visual impairment must be verified in writing by: a licensed physician; certified nurse practitioner, or certified physician's assistant acting under a licensed physician; licensed ophthalmologist; or licensed optometrist. Allows the commissioner to request additional information from a physician, ophthalmologist, or optometrist to verify a hunter's eligibility.

A permit issued under this subdivision may be valid for up to five years, depending on the permanence of the visual impairment and must be in possession of the hunter while hunting.

Allows the commissioner to deny, suspend, or revoke the permit for cause, including a violation of the game and fish laws. Establishes a misdemeanor penalty for a person who knowingly makes a false application for a permit or for a physician, ophthalmologist, or optometrist who fraudulently certifies a visual impairment under this subdivision.