

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 2852

DATE: March 12, 2014

Version: Delete everything amendment (H2852DE1)

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Subject: DNR Game and Fish Bill

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions related to the states game and fish laws including a number of provisions brought forth by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

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- 1 Conservation project.** Amends § 84.154, subd. 1. Removes obsolete language related to the Lac qui Parle River water control project.
- 2 Commissioner may complete Lac qui Parle and Big Stone Lake projects.** Amends § 84.154, subd. 2. Removes obsolete language related to the Lac qui Parle River and Big Stone Lake water control projects.
- 3 Powers of commissioner.** Amends § 84.154, subd. 3. Removes obsolete language.
- 4 Off-highway vehicle and snowmobile seasonal restrictions.** Amends § 84.777, subd. 2. Adds snowmobiles to the list of vehicles prohibited from being operated on state forest lands during the firearms deer hunting season with certain exceptions. Existing restrictions on the use of snowmobiles during the firearms deer season contained in rules are repealed later on in the bill.
- 5 Snowmobile operation during the firearms deer season.** Adds § 84.87, subd. 5. Adds a reference to the prohibition on operating snowmobiles on state forest lands added in the previous section and rules adopted by the commissioner.
- 6 Designation of acquired sites.** Amends § 84.944, subd. 2. Technical (related to the repeal of

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the provision providing for muskellunge lake designations contained in the bill).

- 7 **Eminent domain.** Amends § 84.10. Removes obsolete language related to the Red Lake Game Preserve (now the Red Lake Wildlife Management Area (WMA)).
- 8 **Certain certificates accepted and validated.** Amends § 84A.50. Technical.
- 9 **Ownership of wild animals.** Amends § 97A.025. Removes reference to wild rice and other aquatic vegetation provisions from a provision pertaining to wild animals.
- 10 **Citizen oversight committees.** Amends § 97A.055, subd. 4b. Exempts the citizen oversight committees (Fisheries, Wildlife, and Budgetary) from general advisory council/committee requirements and provides authorization for the members to request reimbursement for mileage expenses. Prohibits members from receiving daily compensation.
- 11 **Hatcheries.** Amends § 97A.131. Removes reference to “game farms” in a provision permitting the DNR to acquire property and construct/operate facilities.
- 12 **Use of motorized vehicles by disabled hunters.** Amends § 97A.137, subd. 3. Adds highway-licensed vehicles and motor boats to the list of vehicles that a disabled hunter may use in WMAs under special permit.
- 13 **Crossing state land.** Adds § 97A.137, subd. 6. Allows the commissioner to grant a permit to cross WMA land to provide temporary access to federal, county or privately owned lands for resource management purposes. States that the permit is revocable any time subject to the conditions of the permit. States that the commissioner may grant permission for a private landowner or leaseholder to cross a WMA under a permit by motorized vehicle when it is the only reasonable access and it is consistent with the maintenance and management of wildlife lands.
- 14 **Refunds.** Amends § 97A.311, subd. 5. Allows the DNR to issue refunds for licenses when evidence that the license was issued incorrectly by the DNR or licensing agent is provided.
- 15 **License corrections.** Amends § 97A.311. Allows the DNR to correct a license and refund the difference/charge the difference if evidence that the wrong license was issued is provided, the request is made within 30 days of issuance, and the season/licensed activity has not yet started.
- 16 **Number of licenses issued.** Amends § 97A.434, subd. 1. Technical.
- 17 **Angling and spearing; disabled residents.** Amends § 97A.441, subd. 1. States that a driver’s license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free angling/spearing license available to certain disabled individuals.
- 18 **Angling; disabled veterans.** Amends § 97A.441, subd. 5. States that a driver’s license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free angling

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license available to certain disabled veterans.

- 19 Taking deer; disabled veterans.** Amends § 97A.441, subd. 6. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free deer hunting license available to certain disabled veterans.
- 20 Taking small game; disabled veterans.** Amends § 97A.441, subd. 6a. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a free small game license available to certain disabled veterans.
- 21 Lifetime spearing license; fee.** Amends § 97A.473, subd. 2a. Reduces all the fees for lifetime spearing licenses.
- 22 Lifetime angling and spearing license; fee.** Amends § 97A.473, subd. 2b. Reduces the fee for a lifetime angling and spearing license for individuals age 16 to 50.
- 23 Lifetime sporting license; fee.** Amends § 97A.473, subd. 5. Reduces the fees for lifetime sporting licenses for all individuals except those ages 16 to 50.
- 24 Lifetime sporting with spearing option license; fee.** Amends § 97A.473, subd. 5a. Reduces the fees for lifetime sporting with spearing option licenses for all individuals except those age 51, which are increased.
- 25 Resident hunting.** Amends § 97A.475, subd. 2. Establishes youth bear hunting fees for residents as follows: no fee for those 10 through 12; and \$5 for those 13 through 17.
- 26 Nonresident hunting.** Amends § 97A.475, subd. 3. Establishes youth bear hunting fees for nonresidents as follows: no fee for those 10 through 12; and \$5 for those 13 through 17.
- 27 Licenses to be sold and issuing fees.** Amends § 97A.485, subd. 6. Removes the \$1 issuing fee for licenses and tags issued without a fee.
- 28 Deer killed by motor vehicles.** Amends § 97A.502. Removes a requirement of the DNR to provide all road authorities with forms for tracking deer killed by motor vehicles.
- 29 Scopes; visually impaired hunters.** Amends § 97B.031, subd. 5. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility to use a scope on a muzzleloader. States that a permit to have a scope on a muzzleloader is not required in order to use an electronic range finder while hunting during certain times as established in the next section.
- 30 Hunting from vehicle by disabled hunters.** Amends § 97B.055, subd. 3. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility to hunt from a vehicle.

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- 31 Exceptions.** Amends § 97B.081, subd. 3. Allows the use of an electronic range finder from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset while lawfully hunting.
- 32 Possession of night vision or thermal imaging equipment.** Amends § 97B.086. Prohibits the use of thermal imaging equipment while hunting or possessing a firearm or bow.
- 33 Disturbing and taking from burrows and dens.** Amends § 97B.095. Recodifies provisions that prohibit a person from removing a fox from a den or trapping a fox within 300 feet of a den from April 1 to August 31 and that prohibit a person from taking a raccoon from a den or hollow tree.
- 34 Prohibited hunting methods.** Amends § 97B.099. Prohibits a person from taking a protected wild animal using an open fire or smoke or by cutting down a tree occupied by the animal. Similar restrictions specific to taking squirrels and raccoons are being repealed in the bill.
- 35 Qualifications for crossbow permits.** Amends § 97B.106, subd. 1. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for a permit to use a crossbow.
- 36 Establishment; requirements.** Amends § 97B.111, subd. 1. States that a driver's license or ID card issued by the state with the applicable disability designation (under a new designation system proposed in this bill) is satisfactory evidence to prove eligibility for special hunts for the disabled.
- 37 Deer contest in conjunction with raffle.** Adds § 97B.329. Allows an organization that is licensed by the Gambling Control Board to conduct a raffle in conjunction with a contest for deer. Allows tickets combining the price for the deer contest and the raffle to be sold. Under current law, a similar provision allows raffles to be conducted in conjunction with fishing contests.
- 38 Elk management plan.** Amends § 97B.516. Removes the requirement that the DNR adopt an elk management plan that restricts elk to nonagricultural lands.
- 39 Commissioner may restrict taking of small game animals.** Amends § 97B.605. Expands the commissioner's authority to set seasons, limits, restrictions and areas where certain game may be taken to apply to all small game (provisions providing specific authority for certain small game species are repealed later on in the bill).
- 40 Owners and occupants may take certain animals.** Amends § 97B.655, subd. 1. Technical.
- 41 Permits and notice; requirements.** Amends § 97B.667, subd. 3. Technical.
- 42 Local beaver control programs.** Amends § 97B.667, subd. 4. Technical.
- 43 Canada geese causing damage.** Amends § 97B.668. Permits a landowner or an agent of the landowner to scare, haze, chase or harass Canada geese that are causing damage to the

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person's property from March 11 to August 31. States that this section does not apply to public waters or geese on nests unless under permit.

44 Migratory game birds. Amends § 97B.731, subd. 1. Provides the commissioner's authority to set areas for the taking of migratory birds.

45 Minnows and leeches; invasive species training required. Adds § 97C.502. Requires minnow dealers and their employees to annually complete aquatic invasive species training provided by the DNR before taking, selling or transporting minnows and requires them to have a valid invasive species training certificate in their possession when doing so. Exempts those who only sell minnows for the dealer at a retail location from the requirements.

Requires residents under 18 to complete aquatic invasive species training provided by the DNR before taking, selling or transporting leeches and have a valid training certificate in their possession while doing so.

States that the section is effective March 1, 2015.

46 Possession, sale, and transportation of commercial fish. Amends § 97C.821. Requires commercial fishing licensees and each apprentice working for them to annually complete invasive species training provided by the DNR and pass an examination in order to take, sell, or transport commercial fish. Requires them to have a valid training certificate in their possession while taking, selling, or transporting commercial fish.

States that the section is effective March 1, 2015.

47 Veterans designation. Amends § 171.07, subd. 15. Requires the Department of Transportation to issue/renew, upon request, driver's licenses or ID cards with a new 100 percent disabled veteran designation provided satisfactory evidence is provided. Provides a delayed effective date.

48 Disability designations. Adds § 171.07, subd. 17. Requires the Department of Transportation to issue/renew, upon request, driver's licenses or ID cards with various types of disability designations to serve as proof of eligibility for various hunting and fishing privileges available to disabled individuals. Provides a delayed effective date.

49 Multiple designations. Adds § 171.07, subd. 18. Allows a person to apply for a driver's licenses or ID cards with multiple veteran's or disability designations.

50 Fish and Wildlife Management. Amends Laws 2008, ch. 363, art. 5, sec. 4, subd. 7 as amended. Modifies a previous appropriation from the heritage enhancement account to allow its use for establishing basic hunter education/firearms safety ranges and archery ranges on public properties.

51 Refunds; lifetime licenses. Allows the commissioner to issue refunds for the difference between the current and new lifetime license fee reductions in the bill to individuals who purchased lifetime licenses between March 1, 2013 and the effective date of the bill.

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- 52 Gray partridge bag limit; rulemaking.** Requires the commissioner to amend rules to prohibit a person from taking more than five gray partridge a day or possessing more than ten at a time. Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking provisions when making the change.
- 53 Rulemaking; snowmobile operation during firearms deer season.** Requires the commissioner to amend rules to remove reference to the rule governing snowmobile use during the open deer season which is repealed in this bill. Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking when making the change.
- 54 Rulemaking; use of rabbits and hares to train dogs.** Requires the DNR to amend rules to state that a person may use dogs to pursue rabbits/hares without killing/capturing them except between March 14 and July 14. Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking when making the change.
- 55 Revisor's instruction.** Instructs the Revisor to update the statutory references to the Red Lake Game Preserve statutes to reflect the repeal of some of them in the next section.
- 56 Repealer.** Repeals: § 84.154, subd. 5 (obsolete language regarding establishment of a fund for the Lac qui Parle water control project); § 84A.04, § 84A.08, and § 84A.11 (obsolete provisions related to the Red Lake Game Preserve (now WMA)); § 97A.081 (stating that the DNR may post land acquired for public hunting grounds and other purposes to identify their management purposes); § 97A.083 (duplicative requirement of DNR to allow hunting and fishing and requirement to publish information on hunting and fishing on state land); § 97A.445, subd. 3 (angling and spearing license exemption for certain disabled railroad and postal retirees); § 97A.4742, subd. 3 (requirement to report on the adequacy of lifetime license fees and make recommendations); and § 97B.061 (allowing the DNR to request that a person submit a form on the number and kinds of game animals they took during the previous year).

Repeals a number of provisions establishing authority to set seasons and prescribing requirements for the taking of various small game that are replaced with more general authority in an earlier section of the bill, including the repeal of: § 97B.611 (provisions establishing dates and methods for taking squirrels); § 97B.615 (provisions establishing date parameters for the rabbit and hare season); § 97B.621, subd. 1 and 4 (provisions establishing authority to prescribe an open season for raccoons and limits on methods of taking them (recodified elsewhere in the bill)); § 97B.625 (provisions establishing authority to set an open season for bobcats and limits on the use of snares); § 97B.631 (restrictions on taking fox from or near dens (recodified elsewhere in the bill)); § 97B.635 (authority to set seasons for fisher, badger, opossum and pine martens); § 97B.711 (authority to prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking certain upland game birds, provisions establishing date parameters for the seasons and bag limits); § 97B.715, subd. 2 (possession limits for hen pheasants); § 97B.803 (authority to prescribe seasons, limits and areas for taking migratory waterfowl); § 97B.911 (authority to prescribe seasons and restrictions for taking muskrat); § 97B.915 (authority to prescribe seasons and restrictions for taking mink); § 97B.921 (authority to prescribe seasons and restrictions for taking otter); and § 97B.925 (authority to

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prescribe seasons and restrictions for taking beaver).

Also repeals: § 97C.011 (authority to designate musky lakes); § 97C.827 (obsolete provision related to encouraging the taking of rough fish and issuing commercial fishing licenses for taking rough fish on Lake of the Woods); and Minnesota Rules part 6100.5100 (restrictions on using snowmobiles in areas open to deer hunting during the firearms deer season which are modified and codified in a previous section of the bill).