

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains various provisions impacting the state's natural resources.

Section

- 1 Minnesota Valley Trail, Hennepin, Dakota, Scott, Carver, Sibley and Le Sueur Counties.** Amends § 85.015, subd. 6. Requires a portion of the Minnesota Valley Trail that lies between the Bloomington Ferry Bridge pedestrian crossing and the Cedar Avenue Bridge to be unpaved and developed primarily for hiking and off-road bicycling.
- 2 Residents of veterans homes.** Adds § 97A.465, subd. 7. Permits residents of veterans homes to hunt and take antlerless deer using a firearm or muzzleloader without obtaining a permit to do so. The privilege does not extend to other members of the veteran's hunting party or in areas closed to antlerless deer hunting or where quotas are placed on the taking of antlerless deer.
- 3 Possession of firearms and ammunition restricted in deer zones.** Amends § 97B.041. States that the first violation of a provision prohibiting the possession of a firearm or ammunition in areas where deer may be taken that applies beginning the fifth day before the open firearms season and ending the second day after the close of the season is punishable by a warning.
- 4 Hunter satisfaction survey.** Amends § 97B.063. Modifies a provision requiring the DNR to administer a hunter participation and satisfaction survey to require it to be conducted annually and be submitted to the legislature and made available on the department's website.

Section

- 5** **Residents age 84 or over may take deer of either sex.** Adds § 97B.301. Allows a resident age 84 or over to take a deer of either sex and limits the privilege to the resident only and not another member of the resident's hunting party.
- 6** **Beaver season.** Adds § 97B.9251. Allows the commissioner to establish open seasons for taking beaver (beginning the Saturday nearest October 26 (in the North Zone) and October 30 (in the South Zone)). Requires the seasons to be open until May 15.
- 7** **Use of artificial lights to take fish prohibited.** Amends § 97C.335. Allows a person owning land adjacent to Rainy Lake, Rainy River, or Lake of the Woods to use artificial light when taking minnows.
- 8** **Rulemaking; lifting spearing bans and northern pike regulations.** Requires the commissioner of natural resources to amend certain department rules to remove language prohibiting spearing. Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking to do so.
- 9** **Repealer.** Repeals Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subparts 27 and 28 (spearing bans on certain waters).