

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

FILE NUMBER: H.F. 1598
Version: As introduced

DATE: March 16, 2015

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Subject: Roadside mowing regulation and enforcement

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This bill makes various modifications to regulation of mowing land located adjacent to roads. Among the changes, it:

- sets this section of statutes as including roads within cities, and as applying to individuals (in addition to MnDOT and local units of government);
- changes the dates and minimum height when entire road rights-of-way can be mowed;
- requires a haying permit on state and federal highways;
- provides for mowing as part of noxious weeds or invasive plant species treatment;
- permits residential lawns to be mowed, with encouragement to wait until after nesting season;
- restricts authority to mow roadsides adjacent to wildlife management areas;
- provides for private landowner requests that their property not be mowed;
- authorizes more restrictive ordinances on mowing by local units of government (for roads under their jurisdiction);
- directs the Department of Natural Resources to coordinate with local units of government (added in addition to MnDOT) regarding roadside habitats; and
- includes haying in some of the provisions on mowing and tilling.

The bill, in paragraph (1), also creates a misdemeanor penalty, along with a civil penalty set based on value of the vegetation, for violations of the mowing statute. It directs funds from the penalties to go into an account of the unit of government having jurisdiction over the affected roadside.