

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill modifies penalties applicable when a person violates certain game and fish laws, including adding a provision that would ban a person from obtaining a license to hunt or fish for ten years if they are convicted of violating a game or fish law involving wild animals with a restitution value above \$2,000.

Section

- 1** **Duty of peace officers.** Amends § 97A.201, subd. 2. Removes county attorneys from a provision requiring them to enforce all game and fish laws (the next section clarifies their role).
- 2** **Prosecuting authority.** Adds § 97A.201, subd. 3. States that county attorneys are the primary prosecuting authority for violations of game and fish laws and other laws under the purview of the DNR and states that prosecution includes civil forfeiture actions.
- 3** **Misdemeanor.** Amends § 97A.301, subd. 1. Clarifies when misdemeanor penalties for violations of the state's game and fish laws apply.
- 4** **Gross overlimits of wild animals; penalty.** Amends § 97A.338. States that the gross misdemeanor penalty applicable for certain game and fish law violations when the restitution value of the wild animals involved is over \$1,000 does not apply to threatened or endangered wild animals unless more than one animal is taken, possessed, or transported in violation of the game and fish laws.
- 5** **Seizure.** Amends § 97A.420, subd. 1. Lowers the threshold (from \$5,000 to \$1,000) when a person's game and fish license may be seized

Section

- 6** **License revocation after conviction.** Amends § 97A.421, subd. 2a. Prohibits a person from obtaining a game or fish license or taking a wild animal for ten years following a game and fish law violation when the restitution value of the wild animals involved is \$2,000 or more. States that violations of game and fish laws involving a threatened or endangered wild animal do not result in license revocations unless more than one animal is taken.