

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would modify existing provisions related to the management of the state's elk, including requiring reporting on claims paid due to elk damage and adding requirements of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Department of Agriculture (MDA) that would apply prior to the DNR actively managing an increase in an elk herd.

Section

- 1** **Report.** Adds § 3.7371, subd. 8. Requires the commissioner of agriculture to submit an annual report to the legislature on the amount of damages paid to crop and pasture owners for damage to crops or fences caused by elk. The report is due December 15 and must include information for the prior two fiscal years separated by elk herd.
- 2** **Elk management plan.** Amends § 97B.516. Prohibits the DNR from managing an elk herd to increase the size unless the commissioner of agriculture verifies that crop and fence damages paid to crop and pasture owners have not increased for at least two years. Requires the DNR and MDA to jointly hold a public meeting at least 60 days prior to implementing a plan to increase an elk herd.