

Subject Farmed Cervids

Authors Burkel and others

Analyst Colbey Sullivan

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Summary

This bill would appropriate \$1 million to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) to reimburse certain expenses incurred, and to offset revenue lost, by white-tailed deer farmers due to temporary movement bans imposed by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) between December 2019 and December 2021, and certain restrictions and requirements imposed by the Board of Animal Health. The bill authorizes MDA to issue payments of up to \$10,000 on a first-come, first-served basis.

Background

In December 2019, in response to the discovery of Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) at a white-tailed deer farm in Douglas County, the DNR adopted a temporary expedited emergency rule prohibiting the importation and intrastate movement of farmed white-tailed deer. The rule was scheduled to expire on January 29, 2020.

In May 2021, in response to the discovery of CWD at a white-tailed deer farm in Beltrami County and the alleged disposal of CWD-contaminated farmed deer carcasses on public land in Beltrami County, the DNR adopted another temporary expedited emergency rule prohibiting the importation and intrastate movement of farmed white-tailed deer except for movement necessary for slaughter. The rule was scheduled to expire on July 30, 2021.

In October 2021, in response to the discovery of CWD at a white-tailed deer farm in Wisconsin, the DNR adopted another temporary expedited emergency rule prohibiting the importation and intrastate movement of farmed white-tailed deer except for movement necessary for slaughter or to transport the deer through the state or to an area outside of the state. The rule was scheduled to expire on April 11, 2023, but the DNR rescinded the rule in December 2021.