

Subject Minnesota Swan Protection Act

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## Overview

This bill establishes the “Minnesota Swan Protection Act” which includes a number of provisions designed to protect native swans, including increased penalties, allowing the commissioner of natural resources to designate swan resting areas and restricting the use of lead sinkers in those areas, and appropriating money for education and outreach and for a lead tackle collection program.

## Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p><b>Native swan.</b></p> <p>Defines “native swan” for purposes of the game and fish laws as trumpeter and tundra swans and excludes mute swans.</p>   |
| 2 | <p><b>Designated swan resting areas.</b></p> <p><b>Subd. 1. Swan resting areas.</b> Allows the commissioner of natural resources to designate swan resting areas within Minnesota’s swan migration corridor.</p> <p><b>Subd. 2. Public notice and meeting.</b> Requires a public meeting to be held prior to designating or removing a designation of a swan resting area. The meeting must be held in the county where the largest portion of the water is located. Requires notices of the meeting, including requiring notice to be posted at public access sites for the water.</p> <p><b>Subd. 3. Using lead sinkers.</b> Prohibits a person from using lead sinkers on waters designated as swan resting areas. Requires the commissioner to maintain a list of the waters and prohibitions on sinkers on the DNR’s website and in the summary of fishing regulations.</p> <p><b>Subd. 4. Report.</b> Requires the DNR to submit a report to the legislature on the implementation of this section and any recommendations by January 15, 2026.</p> |

Section	Description
	<b>Subd. 5. Sunset.</b> States that the section expires January 1, 2027.
3	<b>Swans.</b> States that a person who takes, harasses, destroys, buys, sells, possesses, transports, or ships a native swan in violation of the game and fish laws is guilty of a gross misdemeanor.
4	<b>Swan restitution values; rule amendments.</b> Requires the commissioner of natural resources to amend DNR rules to increase the restitution value for a tundra swan (from \$200 to \$1,000) and a trumpeter swan (from \$1,000 to \$2,500). Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking to do so.
5	<b>Title.</b> States that the act may be cited as the “Minnesota Swan Protection Act.”
6	<b>Swan protection education and outreach; appropriation.</b> Appropriates \$1,400,000 from the general fund to the DNR to provide education and outreach promoting the protection of swans.
7	<b>Lead tackle collection program; appropriation.</b> Appropriates \$1,000,000 from the general fund to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) for a lead tackle reduction program.



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