

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill contains 51 various sections on a wide array of game and fish law changes. The highlights are:

- Allows the Commissioner of Natural Resources, when published in the State Register, to establish fees for specific uses of wildlife management or aquatic management areas (Sec. 3).
- Allows a landowner or tenant who resides on 80 acres or more of land to take an antlerless deer for free, without actually living or farming that land (Sec. 8).
- Upgrades the resident all season deer license to enable three deer to be taken throughout the state (formerly two, Sec. 14).
- Allows a resident angling license fee to include spearing from a dark house (Sec. 16).
- Provides that someone completing military basic training is exempt from the range and shooting portion of instruction in trying to get a firearms safety certificate (Sec. 19).

Section

- Creates an "apprentice hunter validation" category for people born after 1979 and are at least age 12, which allows them to hunt deer and small game when accompanied by a licensed adult who has unaided visual and verbal communication (Sec. 21).
- Deletes 2006 law that stated smokeless gunpowder may not be used in muzzle-loader during the muzzle-loader season (Sec. 27).
- Allows the Commissioner of DNR to restrict fishing in order to protect water quality on specific water bodies, or for improving fish habitat (Sec. 34).
- Reduces the number of residents authorized to commercially fish in Lake Superior to a maximum of 25 (Sec. 39).
- Clarifies the taking of lake trout by licensed commercial operators in Lake Superior management zones (Sec. 43).
- Requires a DNR walk-in public access plan by 1/15/08 to encourage private landowners to allow hunting (Sec. 46).
- Allows a person to take up to three cock pheasants per day after the 16th day of the pheasant season (Sec. 47).
- Requires an open season for taking deer by crossbow during the regular firearm or muzzleloader season from November 1 to December 15 for a two-year trial period (Sec. 48).
- Repeals a law that required certain fish buyer fees in Lake Superior and Lake of the Woods area (Sec. 51).