

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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Overview

This bill would require the commissioner of natural resources to establish a wolf hunting season (to begin no later than the beginning of the 2012 firearms deer season) and a wolf trapping season (to begin January 1, 2013), and establish license fees for taking wolves. The wolf returns to state management effective January 27, 2012, following the delisting of wolves from federal protection under the Endangered Species Act. A previous state law that required a five-year waiting period following delisting before establishing an open season on wolves was removed in 2011 (Minnesota Laws 2011, 1st Special Session, chapter 2, article 5, section 51).

- 1 Residents under age 16; small game.** Amends § 97A.451, subd. 3. Prohibits wolves from being taken by a resident under age 13 unless the resident has a trapping license (currently residents under the age of 13 may trap without a license).
- 2 Resident hunting.** Amends § 97A.475, subd. 2. Establishes a resident wolf hunting license fee of \$38.
- 3 Nonresident hunting.** Amends § 97A.475, subd. 3. Establishes a nonresident wolf hunting license fee of \$195.
- 4 Trapping license.** Amends § 97A.475, subd. 20. Establishes wolf trapping license fees of \$50 for residents and \$100 for nonresidents.
- 5 Exception to license requirements.** Amends § 97B.601, subd. 4. Technical.
- 6 Open season.** Amends § 97B.645, subd. 9. Requires the commissioner of natural resources to establish a firearms hunting season and a trapping season for gray wolves, in consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- 7 Taking wolves; license.** Adds § 97B.647.

Subd. 1. License, tagging, and registration requirements. Requires a person to have a license to take a wolf by hunting or trapping and allows the commissioner to prescribe tagging and registration requirements by rule. (Existing provisions allowing a person to take a wolf to

protect human life, livestock, and pets would still apply and would not require a license.)

Subd. 2. Season and restrictions. Allows the commissioner to establish seasons, areas, and the conditions for hunting and trapping wolves. Allows the commissioner to limit the number of wolves taken or the number of persons who may take a wolf in order to prevent overharvest. Allows the commissioner to establish a drawing for awarding limited licenses, or another method, to impartially select licensees for an area and requires the commissioner to give preference to those who have previously applied but have not been selected.

- 8** **2012 and 2013 wolf seasons.** Requires the commissioner to start the first firearms wolf season no later than the start of the 2012 firearms deer hunting season and the first wolf trapping season on January 1, 2013.