

Subject Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Policy

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Overview

This bill includes a number of policy provisions being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | <p>Account to invest financial assurance money from permits to mine.</p> <p>Allows the State Board of Investment (SBI), if requested by the DNR, to invest money received for permit to mine financial assurance purposes. Allows the SBI to establish one or more accounts and requires the money to be used for financial assurance purposes, or as authorized under any trust fund agreement or conditions under a permit to mine. Allows the DNR to deposit and withdraw money from the accounts. Requires investment strategies to be determined jointly by the DNR and SBI. Requires investment earnings to be credited to the appropriate account. Allows the DNR to terminate an account subject to certain conditions.</p> |
| 2 | <p>Forest trust lands.</p> <p>Requires the DNR to submit information necessary to certify forestry costs on state forest trust fund lands to the commissioner of management and budget by June 30 each year or after presentation to the Legislative Permanent School Fund Commission, whichever is sooner.</p> |
| 3 | <p>Property disposal; gift acknowledgement; advertising sales.</p> <p>Allows the DNR to request that the commissioner of administration donate or convey bison to a government unit or nonprofit in or outside of the state or sell the bison. States that the recipient of the bison is solely responsible for all future expenses related to the bison.</p> |
| 4 | <p>Prohibition.</p> <p>Modifies a provision prohibiting taking, importing, transporting, or selling endangered species to also include threatened species and adds the release of such species to the list of prohibited acts.</p> |

Section	Description
5	<p>Application.</p> <p>Removes an exemption from threatened and endangered species provisions that allowed importation and subsequent possession, transportation, and sale of wild animals or wild plants that are legally imported into the United States or legally acquired from another territory, state, or political subdivision of the United States.</p>
6	<p>Minnesota releaf program.</p> <p>Adds the encouragement, promotion, and funding of the utilization of trees and forest resources to the list of purposes of the Minnesota releaf program.</p>
7	<p>Production at state nurseries.</p> <p>Removes a provision that prohibited the DNR from producing more than 10,000,000 units of planting stock annually.</p>
8	<p>Private lands.</p> <p>Removes a provision that limited the DNR to supplying only bare root seedlings for use on private land.</p>
9	<p>Expiration.</p> <p>Extends the sunset of the Mineral Coordinating Committee by ten years (from June 30, 2026, to June 30, 2036).</p>
10	<p>Liability for restitution.</p> <p>Makes a person liable for the value of a wild animal if they are found in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 343.21 (animal cruelty laws).</p>
11	<p>Arrest and charging procedure.</p> <p>Requires an enforcement officer arresting a person for killing, injuring, or possessing a wild animal in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 343.21 (animal cruelty laws) to describe the number, species, and restitution value of the animal(s).</p>
12	<p>Sentencing procedure.</p> <p>Requires a court to require a person convicted of or who plead guilty to killing, injuring, or possessing a wild animal in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 343.21 (animal cruelty laws) to pay the restitution value to the state.</p>
13	<p>Restitution value of wild animals.</p> <p>States that the restitution value for a wild animal is doubled when a person kills, injures, or possesses a wild animal in violation of Minnesota Statutes, section 343.21 (animal cruelty laws).</p>

Section	Description
14	<p data-bbox="316 262 1429 294">Permit application and notification fees.</p> <p data-bbox="316 304 1429 415">Establishes a separate application fee of \$100 for appropriating water under a general permit. NOTE: The new fee is intended to correct an unintended fee increase made in 2023.</p>



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