

Subject DNR Policy
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Overview

This bill contains a number of policy and technical provisions being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) as well a provision modifying the DNR's wildlife stamp contest design entry requirements (originally proposed in H.F. 262), provisions allowing the use of dogs to track big game (originally proposed in H.F. 680), and a provision to prohibit the use of neonicotinoids in wildlife management areas (WMAs) (originally proposed in H.F. 721).

Summary

Section	Description
1	Paying grant-eligible expenditures. Allows the DNR to pay eligible grant program expenditures made on or after the effective date of an appropriation.
2	Purposes. Allows money in the off-highway motorcycle account to be used for grants to local law enforcement agencies for enforcement and public education.
3	Purposes for the account; allocation. Allows the DNR to establish a performance based funding formula for distributing snowmobile grants-in-aid. Provides an exception from the rulemaking process for the procedures and criteria.
4	Cross-country-ski trail grant-in-aid program. Allows the DNR to establish a performance based funding formula for distributing cross-country-ski trail grants-in-aid. Provides an exception from the rulemaking process for the procedures and criteria.
5	Game fish. Modifies the definition of "game fish" to use the scientific names for the fish.

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6	<p>Rough fish.</p> <p>Removes burbot and cisco from the definition of rough fish.</p>
7	<p>Walk-in access program.</p> <p>Modifies the walk-in access program so that lands not otherwise open to the public for hunting are eligible, rather than only private lands as currently eligible.</p>
8	<p>Insecticides in wildlife management areas.</p> <p>Prohibits a person from using a product that contains an insecticide from the neonicotinoid class of insecticides in a WMA.</p>
9	<p>Owner responsibility; penalty amount.</p> <p>States that penalties for an owner of a dog who pursues big game do not apply to a person using a dog in compliance with the new provisions allowing leashed dogs to track big game established in section 14.</p>
10	<p>Small-game surcharge and donation.</p> <p>Exempts nonresident small game licenses for those age 16 or 17 from the small game license surcharge.</p>
11	<p>Dogs pursuing big game.</p> <p>States that provisions allowing a person to kill a dog wounding, killing, or pursuing big game during certain times do not apply to a dog used in compliance with the new provisions allowing leashed dogs to track big game established in section 14.</p>
12	<p>Exceptions.</p> <p>Provides exceptions from the ban on using artificial lights while hunting to allow a person to use a handheld artificial light: (1) while possessing a firearm when tracking a wounded or dead bear in compliance with the new leashed dog provisions; and (2) to track a wounded or dead deer in compliance with the new leashed dog provisions. Provides a definition of “handheld artificial light” for purposes of the provision as “an artificial light that is carried in the hand or attached to the person.”</p>
13	<p>Using dogs and horses to take big game prohibited.</p> <p>Provides an exception from the ban on using a dog or horse to take big game for the new provision allowing the use of leashed dogs to track big game.</p>
14	<p>Using dogs to locate wounded deer or bear.</p> <p>Subd. 1. Using dogs allowed. Allows a person to use a dog to locate and retrieve a wounded deer or bear only as provided in this section.</p> <p>Subd. 2. Requirements for hunters and handlers. Requires hunters using a dog to track wounded deer or bear to have a valid hunting license to take the deer or bear. If using a dog handler, the handler must have a license or be accompanied by a licensed hunter. Requires the hunter and any dog handler to be on foot and</p>

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	<p>wear blaze orange or blaze pink and requires any light used to be a handheld artificial light as defined in section 12.</p> <p>Subd. 3. Requirements for dogs. Requires dogs used under this section to be accompanied by the hunter and any handler until the bear or deer is located. The dog must be physically controlled and on a leash at all times and the leash must not exceed 30 feet. Requires the dog owner's information to be on the dog. States that the hunter and any handler are jointly responsible for the dog. States that violations of this subdivision are subject to the misdemeanor penalties and license revocations and restrictions applicable to those violating game and fish laws.</p> <p>Subd. 4. Additional requirements. States that the state trespass laws apply including all requirements to gain permission to enter private or public property. Allows the use of dogs outside of the legal shooting hours or open season, but it must be reported to the local conservation officer.</p>
15	<p>Taking animals causing damage.</p> <p>Requires traps used to take certain animals causing damage to be tagged with the landowner's name and telephone number, or when placed by an agent of the landowner, the agent's information. Requires the removal or destruction of beaver dams to be done in compliance with new provisions established in the next section.</p>
16	<p>Removing beaver dams; agreement by landowner.</p> <p>Allows a person to remove or destroy a beaver dam from the person's property unless the removal/destruction of the dam would change or diminish the historical water levels, course, current, or cross section of public waters, or when a public waters work permit is otherwise required. Prohibits a person from removing/destroying a beaver dam on public property or someone else's without permission. Allows a person to petition a district court for relief if they fail to get the property owner's permission.</p>
17	<p>Government units.</p> <p>Allows any government unit to kill beaver causing damage and remove or destroy any associated beaver lodge or dams subject to existing permit requirements and the new provisions established in the previous section.</p>
18	<p>Permits and notice; requirements.</p> <p>Modifies special permit and notification requirements for road authorities and government units when killing beaver to only require permits when taking a beaver two weeks before or after the trapping season for beaver.</p>

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19	Beaver control programs. Conforming change needed due to the provision allowing all government units to kill beavers causing damage.
20	Tagging requirements for traps. Requires traps used as part of a beaver control program implemented by a government unit to be tagged with the name and telephone number of the government unit, and, if applicable, any third-party contractor's information.
21	Stamp design; rule amendment. Requires the commissioner of natural resources to amend DNR rules to allow stamp design contest entries to be created using nonphotographic digital media and require a person entering a stamp design contest to list all media used in creating the entry. Allows the commissioner to use the good cause exemption from the state's rulemaking procedure to amend the rules.



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