Overview

Contains various provisions concerning game and fish laws. The bill governs when and how state or local governments may require a shooting range to relocate or close.

1 **Policy.** States the policy of the state is to implement the constitutional right to hunt and promote the safety and enjoyment of shooting sports by preserving shooting ranges.

2 **Definitions.**
   
   **Subd. 4. Generally accepted operation practices.** Means the voluntary guidelines adopted by the commissioner of natural resources for shooting ranges. Directs how the commissioner should develop the guidelines. Requires review and revision of the guidelines at least every five years. Requires the initial guidelines to be adopted by July 1, 1999.

3 **Local ordinances; existing operations.** Requires a unit of government to permit existing shooting ranges to continue operation even if the local zoning ordinance for the surrounding area changes. Specifies what a shooting range following generally accepted operation practices must be allowed to do. Grandfathers in a negotiated settlement for a range located in Washington county.

4 **Closing shooting ranges; payment of certain costs.** Permits requiring a range to close due to new development adjacent to the range only as provided in this section.

   Provides for the range to be closed and relocated if the range has become a clear and proven safety hazard after a hearing and testimony, and the government pays the fair market value of the range business as a going concern and the fair market value of the land and improvements.

   Provides for range operations to be suspended if it becomes unable to meet minimum range safety standards after the operators have had reasonable notice and an opportunity to respond.

   Provides that if the range obtains a current certificate of reasonable shooting range safety compliance it may begin operations again.

5 **Irrebuttable presumption.** Provides for an irrebuttable presumption that a shooting range in
compliance with generally accepted operation practices is not a public or private nuisance.

6 **Noise standards.** States that an owner or operator of a shooting range is subject only to present state noise standards.

7 **Nuisance actions.** States that a shooting range in compliance with generally accepted operation practices is not subject to a nuisance action in a state court.

8 **Deer license management.** Allows the dollar amounts for deer management purposes in current law to be doubled for a license issued under section 9.

9 **Two deer with two licenses.** Authorizes a deer to be taken by firearms and a deer to be taken by archery for a $44 license fee.

10 **Issuing fees.** Raises the subagent issuing fees by 50 cents for taking deer or bear, fishing, small game, trapping, or a sporting license.

11 **Subagent commission.** Allows a subagent commission of $1.50 for each license fee collected.

12 **Big game tags.** Changes present law by saying tags must be attached to big game when the animal is in a camp, a place occupied overnight, the surrounding yard, or on a motor vehicle.

13 **Provisional certificate.** Allows a provisional firearms safety certificate for certain people with mental disabilities.

14 **Firearms and big game.** Removes the case length requirement in taking big game.

15 **Bow transportation.** Permits archery bows in the rear-most enclosed portion of a motor vehicle to be legally transported.

16 **Blaze orange.** Removes trappers, other than during the firearms deer season, and falconers from wearing blaze orange.

17 **Hunting by mentally disabled.** Allows mentally disabled persons to obtain a firearms hunting license under specified conditions.

18 **Crossbow hunting.** States that a verified permanent physical disability allows a person to apply for a lifetime crossbow permit.

21 **Combined license.** Effectuates the provisions of section 9 in taking two deer by each method.

22 **Effective date.** Makes sections 1 to 7 effective the day following final enactment.