Overview

The bill exempts sport shooting ranges from the effect of local ordinances and from noise and nuisance actions if they comply with operation practices guidelines developed by the Department of Natural Resources. It also provides that shooting range activity participants accept the inherent risks of the activity at the range.

1 Nuisance liability of shooting ranges.

Subd. 1. Definitions. Defines three terms. "Generally accepted operation practices" means voluntary guidelines adopted by the department of natural resources (DNR) for shooting ranges. Requires DNR to review the guidelines every five years and revise as necessary. Requires initial guidelines to be adopted July 1, 1999.

Subd. 2. Noise law protections; existing operations. Provides that a sport shooting range that conforms to the operation guidelines is not subject to (1) civil or criminal liability for noise violations, or (2) nuisance actions for noise if the range complies with laws or ordinances applicable at the time it began operation. Exempts a shooting range under this section from state agency rules governing acceptable outdoor noise decibel levels.

Subd. 3. Local ordinance protection; existing operations. Requires allowing a shooting range to continue operation if it complied with law when it began operation, even if it later does not conform to a new or amended ordinance.

Grandfathers in a range operating on the effective date of the bill that is in compliance with generally accepted operation practices, even if it does not comply with local ordinance. Allows the facility to (1) repair, remodel, or reinforce building or structures to secure continued use, and (2) reconstruct any building or structure damaged after the effective date of the bill. Requires reconstruction to be completed within one year after the damage occurs or the property claim is settled. Otherwise, nonconforming use can be terminated.

Except as provided by this section, local governments may still regulate the use, operation,
location, safety and construction of a range.

**Subd. 4. Inherent risks; injury.** Provides that range activity participants accept the inherent risks of the activity. Specifies examples of these risks.