Overview

All changes in this bill are an attempt to provide better law enforcement authority tools for perfecting various forfeitures in current statute, including getting firearms out of the hands of convicted felons in hunting and driving while intoxicated (DWI) enforcement and education.

Section

1 Firearms possessed by felons. Provides a tool to get firearms out of the hands of persons prohibited to possess them, by creating an additional, administrative forfeiture authority for those persons who possess firearms in violation of federal or state laws, orders for protection (OFP), or other court orders.

Disposition of abandoned property. Provides a means to dispose of miscellaneous property that Conservation Officers seize associated with violations of the game and fish laws, such as fishing rods/reels, traps, and tip-ups, in those situations where no one comes forward to claim the property in order to avoid being prosecuted for the violation.

2 Trespass civil citation authority. Expands the civil citation authority to include trespass violations of operating a snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, or other recreational vehicle on another person's property without permission within the seven county metro area (Minn. Stat. § 84.90), as well as other areas of the state when signs are posted to no trespassing by those vehicles.

3 DWI forfeiture fund authority. Allows state agencies (Department of Natural Resources and State Patrol) to utilize funds realized from sales of DWI forfeited vehicles to offset costs incurred for any other DWI forfeiture actions. Funds could also be used for DWI related enforcement, training, and education activities.

4 Fleeing forfeiture 48/96 hour notification requirements. Exempts snowmobiles, ATV's, and motorboats from the 48 hour and 96 hour notification requirements for fleeing vehicle seizures/forfeitures.
Report. Requires a report to natural resources committees on increased penalties for gross violations of taking wildlife resources.

Effective date. Day following final enactment.