

HOUSE RESEARCH

Bill Summary

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This bill would prohibit the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) from adopting rules that further restrict the use of lead shot.

The DNR has recently proposed, as part of a larger rulemaking effort, rules that would require a person to use nontoxic shot when:

(1) hunting small game on wildlife management areas (WMAs) in the farmland zone (a portion of the state that falls south and west of a line that follows Minnesota Highway 70 westward from the Wisconsin border to Minnesota Highway 65 to Minnesota Highway 23 to U.S. Highway 169 at Milaca to Minnesota Highway 18 at Garrison to Minnesota Highway 210 at Brainerd to U.S. Highway 10 at Motley to U.S. Highway 59 at Detroit Lakes northward to the Canadian border); and

(2) hunting rails or common snipe.

The proposed rules would define nontoxic shot as: steel shot; copper-plated, nickle-plated, or zinc-plated steel shot; or shot made of other nontoxic material approved by the director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Similar requirements already apply when hunting waterfowl and on federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).