

Subject Use of Dogs to Track Big Game

Authors Tabke

Analyst Janelle Taylor

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Overview

This bill would allow a person to track a wounded or dead bear or deer using a dog on a leash under certain circumstances. Under existing law, the use of a dog while hunting big game is prohibited and there are penalties for dog owners who allow their dogs to pursue big game.

Summary

| Section | Description |
|---------|---|
| 1 | <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 5.</p> |
| 2 | <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 person using a dog in compliance with the new provisions allowing leashed dogs to track big game.</p> |
| 3 | <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> |
| 4 | <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 game for the new provision allowing the use of leashed dogs to track big game.</p> |

| Section | Description |
|---------|---|
| 5 | <p data-bbox="355 275 886 302">Using dogs to locate wounded deer or bear.</p> <p data-bbox="453 317 1414 380">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 data-bbox="453 422 1414 621">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 wear blaze orange or blaze pink and requires any light used to be a handheld artificial light as defined in section 3.</p> <p data-bbox="453 663 1414 936">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 data-bbox="453 978 1414 1152">Subd. 4. Additional requirements. Requires a dog and any handler to leave the area if the deer or bear is found alive. 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> |



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