

**Subject** Nontoxic Shot

**Authors** Lee

**Analyst** Janelle Taylor

**Date** February 21, 2020

## Summary

This bill would require the use of nontoxic shot when hunting small game on a wildlife management area (WMA) in the farmland zone beginning July 1, 2021.

The farmland zone is a portion of the state that falls south and west of a line that follows Highway 70 westward from the Wisconsin border to Highway 65 to Highway 23 to U.S. Highway 169 at Milaca to Highway 18 at Garrison to Highway 210 at Brainerd to U.S. Highway 10 at Motley to U.S. Highway 59 at Detroit Lakes northward to the Canadian border.

The bill defines nontoxic shot as steel shot; copper-plated, nickel-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 for using nontoxic shot apply when hunting waterfowl and on federal Waterfowl Production Areas (WPAs).

In 2015, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) proposed adopting rules requiring the use of nontoxic shot in WMAs in the farmland zone similar to the requirements proposed in this bill. The rule was controversial and the legislature passed a temporary ban on adopting such rules in 2017. That ban expired in 2019.