

Subject DNR Policy

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Overview

This bill includes a number of provisions being recommended by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Summary

Section	Description
1	Permitting efficiency; public notice. Changes the date the DNR's annual permitting efficiency report is due from August 1, to October 1.
2	Application, issuance, issuing fee. Requires the snowmobile registration number to be printed on a snowmobile registration decal.
3	Display of registration decal. Requires a person to have a current snowmobile registration decal affixed to each side of a snowmobile in order to operate or transport it and specifies how the decal must be affixed. Under current law, registration numbers are required to be affixed to the snowmobile.
4	Area for registration number. Statutorily requires snowmobiles made after June 30, 1972, and sold in Minnesota to have a clear area on each side of the cowl meeting certain requirements (this is currently required in a rule being repealed in section 20).
5	Required rules, fees, and reports. Conforming changes related to the requirement of snowmobile decals.

Section	Description
6	<p>Luce Line Trail, Hennepin, McLeod, and Meeker Counties.</p> <p>Expands the authorization of the Luce Line State Trail to include a connection to Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.</p>
7	<p>State park reservation system.</p> <p>Allows the DNR to reasonable reservation policies for day-use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and other rentals, in addition to campsites and lodging as allowed under current law.</p>
8	<p>Deferred payments.</p> <p>Allows a payment for timber to be postmarked within 30 days of a statement date before interest begins to accrue. Under current law, payment is required within 30 days of the statement date.</p>
9	<p>Unloaded.</p> <p>Amends the definition of “unloaded” to accommodate muzzle loading firearms with encapsulated powder charge and electronic ignition systems which are added to allowable firearms under section 13.</p>
10	<p>Walk-in access program.</p> <p>Expands the purpose of the walk-in access program to include providing access for bird-watching, nature photography, and similar compatible uses.</p>
11	<p>Use of motorized vehicles by people with disabilities.</p> <p>Modifies a provision allowing the use of motorized vehicles in a wildlife management area (WMA) under a special permit issued by the DNR to a person with a disability. The changes include no longer requiring a hunting license, the vehicles must meet a federal definition for “other power-driven mobility devices,” and the person would need to provide credible assurance that the device or motorboat is being used because of the disability.</p>
12	<p>Resident licenses.</p> <p>Modifies requirements for obtaining resident hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to allow a valid driver’s license or identification card application receipt that is at least 60 days past the issuance date and Tribal identification cards to be used as proof of residency. Prohibits a person from obtaining a resident license if they have been issued a resident license by another state or country within 60 days of applying.</p>

Section	Description
13	<p>Permissible firearms and ammunition; big game and wolves.</p> <p>Amends the list of permissible firearms to take big game and wolves to accommodate muzzle loading firearms with electronic ignitions and encapsulated powder charge ignition systems.</p>
14	<p>Regular firearms deer season.</p> <p>States that any legal firearm, which would include a rifle, may be used statewide during the regular firearms deer season. A provision establishing a “shotgun only zone” is repealed in section 20.</p>
15	<p>Clothing and ground blind requirements; blaze orange or blaze pink.</p> <p>Requires a person in a fabric or synthetic ground blind on public land during the open deer hunting season to have a blaze orange or blaze pink safety covering on the blind visible for 360 degrees around the blind or have at least 144 square inches of blaze orange material on each side of the blind.</p>
16	<p>Animals causing damage.</p> <p>Allows a property owner, the owner’s immediate family, or an agent of the property owner to nonlethally scare, haze, chase, or harass deer or elk causing damage to agricultural crops under certain conditions and restrictions.</p>
17	<p>Lines.</p> <p>Allows two fishing lines to be used when fishing in the Minnesota River downstream of the Granite Falls dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls.</p>
18	<p>Required rulemaking.</p> <p>Requires the DNR to amend certain rules to conform with the changes to the snowmobile registration display modifications in the bill and allows the DNR to use the good cause exemption from rulemaking to do so.</p>
19	<p>Registration decal format transition.</p> <p>Provides for the transition from the old snowmobile registration number display requirements to the new snowmobile registration decal requirements established in the bill.</p>
20	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals Minnesota Statutes section 97B.318 (“shotgun only zone” which requires only shotguns using slugs, muzzleloaders, and handguns legal for big game to be used in a specified area that includes the southern and western portion of the state) and Minnesota Rules, parts 6100.5000, subparts 3, 4, and 5; and 6100.5700, subpart 4 (snowmobile registration number related rules).</p>



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