

Subject Game and Fish
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Overview

This bill contains a number of provisions related to the state's game and fish laws that were considered during the 2020 session (with some modifications), including provisions addressing chronic wasting disease (CWD), muzzleloaders, and the use of deer stands in certain wildlife management areas (WMAs). It also includes provisions removing the shotgun only zone for deer hunting.

Summary

Section	Description
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| 1 | Running at large prohibited.
Requires the owner of farmed Cervidae (e.g. deer, elk, and moose) to immediately notify the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) of an escaped animal if the animal is not returned/captured within 24 hours. Allows a licensed hunter to kill and possess an escaped farmed Cervidae without being liable to the owner for the loss of the animal. Requires farmed Cervidae killed by a hunter or the DNR to be tested for chronic wasting disease (CWD) at the owner's expense. Provides an effective date of September 1, 2021, for the provision. |
| 2 | Identification.
Requires identification required of farmed white-tailed deer to include certain contact information of the owner. Provides an effective date of September 1, 2021, for the provision. |
| 3 | Unloaded.
Amends the definition of "unloaded" to accommodate muzzle loading firearms with electronic encapsulated powder charge ignition systems that are added to the list of allowable firearms in section 6. Provides an immediate effective date for the section. |

Section	Description
4	<p>Portable stands.</p> <p>Makes permanent a provision allowing a person to leave a portable deer stand overnight in WMAs in certain areas of Northwestern Minnesota. The provision expired December 31, 2019.</p>
5	<p>Importing Cervidae carcasses.</p> <p>Expands a provision prohibiting the importation of Cervidae carcasses. Under current law, a person cannot import a hunter-harvested Cervidae carcass unless it has been processed to meet certain requirements to ensure it has been cleaned of all brain tissue and the spinal column (e.g. cut and wrapped meat, finished taxidermy mounts, or quartered without the spinal column or head attached). This section would expand the provision to all Cervidae carcasses, not just hunter-harvested ones.</p>
6	<p>Permissible firearms and ammunition; big game and wolves.</p> <p>Amends the list of permissible firearms for taking big game and wolves to accommodate muzzle loading firearms with electronic ignitions and encapsulated powder charge ignition systems. Provides an immediate effective date for the section.</p>
7	<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 the next section.</p>
8	<p>Repealer.</p> <p>Repeals the “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.</p>



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