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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-THIRD SESSION

H. F. No. 2144

02/21/2023 Authored by Fischer, Becker-Finn, Jordan, Hornstein, Olson, L., and others
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; prohibiting open season for taking wolves; increasing
1.3 criminal penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 84.027, subdivision
1.4 20; 97A.075, subdivision 7; 97A.451, subdivision 3; 97A.473, subdivisions 3, 5,
1.5 5a; 97A.475, subdivisions 2, 3, 20; 97A.485, subdivision 6; 97B.031, subdivisions
1.6 1, 2; 97B.035, subdivision 1a; 97B.075; 97B.601, subdivisions 3a, 4; 97B.603;
1.7 97B.605; 97B.645, subdivision 9; 97B.648; 97B.901; repealing Minnesota Statutes
1.8 2022, section 97B.647.

1.9 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.10 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.027, subdivision 20, is amended to read:

1.11 Subd. 20. Hunting licenses to critically ill persons. The commissioner may allow
1.12 critically ill persons to purchase, once in a lifetime, hunting licenses otherwise limited by
1.13 a lottery drawing, which licenses allow for taking game within established hunting seasons
1.14 or season frameworks. The commissioner may provide the licenses to persons who are
1.15 participating in a program for critically ill hunters sponsored by a nonprofit organization
1.16 with expertise in providing hunting opportunities to hunters who are gravely ill or have
1.17 physical disabilities. The commissioner may provide licenses or permits otherwise limited
1.18 by drawings, including wild turkey, deer, bear, and prairie chicken, and wolf. The
1.19 commissioner may not allow the purchase of moose and elk licenses under this subdivision.
1.20 Deer licenses authorized by the commissioner under this subdivision may be for deer of
1.21 either sex.

2.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.075, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.2 Subd. 7. **Wolf licenses; management and monitoring account established.** ~~(a) For~~  
 2.3 ~~purposes of this subdivision, "wolf license" means a license or permit issued under section~~  
 2.4 ~~97A.475, subdivision 2, clause (22); 3, paragraph (a), clause (18); or 20, paragraph (b).~~

2.5 ~~(b)~~ A wolf management and monitoring account is created in the game and fish fund.  
 2.6 ~~Revenue from wolf licenses must be credited to~~ Money in the wolf management and  
 2.7 monitoring account ~~and~~ is appropriated to the commissioner only for wolf management,  
 2.8 research, damage control, enforcement, and education. Notwithstanding any other law to  
 2.9 the contrary, money credited to the account may not be used to pay indirect costs or agency  
 2.10 shared services.

2.11 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.451, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.12 Subd. 3. **Residents and nonresidents under age 16; small game.** (a) A resident or  
 2.13 nonresident under age 16 may not obtain a small-game license but may take small game by  
 2.14 firearms or bow and arrow without a license if the resident or nonresident is:

2.15 (1) age 14 or 15 and possesses a firearms safety certificate;

2.16 (2) age 13, possesses a firearms safety certificate, and is accompanied by a parent or  
 2.17 guardian;

2.18 (3) age 13, 14, or 15, and possesses an apprentice-hunter validation as provided under  
 2.19 section 97B.022; or

2.20 (4) age 12 or under and is accompanied by a parent or guardian.

2.21 (b) A resident under age 16 may take small game, ~~other than wolves,~~ by trapping without  
 2.22 a small-game license, but a resident 13 years of age or older must have a trapping license.  
 2.23 A resident under age 13 may trap small game, ~~other than wolves,~~ without a trapping license,  
 2.24 but may not register fisher, otter, bobcat, or pine marten unless the resident is at least age  
 2.25 five. Any fisher, otter, bobcat, or pine marten taken by a resident under age five must be  
 2.26 included in the limit of the accompanying parent or guardian.

2.27 (c) A resident or nonresident under age 13 must obtain a free turkey license to take  
 2.28 turkey and may take a turkey without a firearms safety certificate if the resident or  
 2.29 nonresident is accompanied by an adult parent or guardian who has a firearms safety  
 2.30 certificate.

3.1 (d) A resident under age 13 may apply for a prairie-chicken license and may take a  
3.2 prairie chicken without a firearms safety certificate if the resident is accompanied by an  
3.3 adult parent or guardian who has a firearms safety certificate.

3.4 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

3.5 Subd. 3. **Lifetime small-game-hunting license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime  
3.6 small-game-hunting license authorizes a person to hunt and trap small game, ~~other than~~  
3.7 ~~wolves~~, in the state. The license authorizes those hunting and trapping activities authorized  
3.8 by the annual resident small-game-hunting license and the trapping license for fur-bearing  
3.9 animals ~~other than wolves~~. The license does not include a turkey stamp validation or any  
3.10 other hunting stamps required by law.

3.11 (b) The fees for a resident lifetime small-game-hunting license are:

3.12 (1) age 3 and under, \$223;

3.13 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$301;

3.14 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$430; and

3.15 (4) age 51 and over, \$274.

3.16 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

3.17 Subd. 5. **Lifetime sporting license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime sporting license authorizes  
3.18 a person to take fish by angling and hunt and trap small game, ~~other than wolves~~, in the  
3.19 state. The license authorizes those activities authorized by the annual resident angling and  
3.20 resident small-game-hunting licenses and the resident trapping license for fur-bearing  
3.21 animals ~~other than wolves~~. The license does not include a trout-and-salmon stamp validation,  
3.22 a turkey stamp validation, a walleye stamp validation, or any other hunting stamps required  
3.23 by law.

3.24 (b) The fees for a resident lifetime sporting license are:

3.25 (1) age 3 and under, \$522;

3.26 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$710;

3.27 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$927; and

3.28 (4) age 51 and over, \$603.

4.1 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

4.2 Subd. 5a. **Lifetime sporting with spearing option license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime  
4.3 sporting with spearing option license authorizes a person to take fish by angling or spearing  
4.4 and hunt and trap small game, ~~other than wolves~~, in the state. The license authorizes those  
4.5 activities authorized by the annual resident angling, spearing, and resident  
4.6 small-game-hunting licenses and the resident trapping license ~~for fur-bearing animals other~~  
4.7 ~~than wolves~~. The license does not include a trout-and-salmon stamp validation, a turkey  
4.8 stamp validation, a walleye stamp validation, or any other hunting stamps required by law.

4.9 (b) The fees for a resident lifetime sporting with spearing option license are:

4.10 (1) age 3 and under, \$612;

4.11 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$833;

4.12 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$1,046; and

4.13 (4) age 51 and over, \$666.

4.14 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.475, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

4.15 Subd. 2. **Resident hunting.** Fees for the following licenses, to be issued to residents  
4.16 only, are:

4.17 (1) for persons age 18 or over and under age 65 to take small game, \$15.50;

4.18 (2) for persons age 65 or over, \$7 to take small game;

4.19 (3) for persons age 18 or over to take turkey, \$26;

4.20 (4) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take turkey, \$5;

4.21 (5) for persons age 18 or over to take deer with firearms during the regular firearms  
4.22 season, \$34;

4.23 (6) for persons age 18 or over to take deer by archery, \$34;

4.24 (7) for persons age 18 or over to take deer by muzzleloader during the muzzleloader  
4.25 season, \$34;

4.26 (8) to take moose, for a party of not more than six persons, \$356;

4.27 (9) for persons age 18 or over to take bear, \$44;

4.28 (10) to take elk, for a party of not more than two persons, \$287;

4.29 (11) to take Canada geese during a special season, \$4;

- 5.1 (12) to take light geese during the light goose conservation order, \$2.50;
- 5.2 (13) to take sandhill crane during the sandhill crane season, \$3;
- 5.3 (14) to take prairie chickens, \$23;
- 5.4 (15) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer with firearms during the  
5.5 regular firearms season, \$5;
- 5.6 (16) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer by archery, \$5;
- 5.7 (17) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer by muzzleloader during  
5.8 the muzzleloader season, \$5;
- 5.9 (18) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take bear, no fee;
- 5.10 (19) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take bear, \$5;
- 5.11 (20) for persons age 18 or over to take small game for a consecutive 72-hour period  
5.12 selected by the licensee, \$19, of which an amount equal to one-half of the fee for the  
5.13 migratory-waterfowl stamp under subdivision 5, clause (1), shall be deposited in the  
5.14 waterfowl habitat improvement account under section 97A.075, subdivision 2; one-half of  
5.15 the fee for the pheasant stamp under subdivision 5, clause (2), shall be deposited in the  
5.16 pheasant habitat improvement account under section 97A.075, subdivision 4; and one-half  
5.17 of the small-game surcharge under subdivision 4, shall be deposited in the wildlife acquisition  
5.18 account;
- 5.19 (21) for persons age 16 or over and under age 18 to take small game, \$5;
- 5.20 ~~(22) to take wolf, \$30;~~
- 5.21 ~~(23)~~ (22) for persons age 12 and under to take turkey, no fee;
- 5.22 ~~(24)~~ (23) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by firearm, no fee;
- 5.23 ~~(25)~~ (24) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by archery, no fee; and
- 5.24 ~~(26)~~ (25) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by muzzleloader during the  
5.25 muzzleloader season, no fee.

5.26 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.475, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

5.27 Subd. 3. **Nonresident hunting.** (a) Fees for the following licenses, to be issued to  
5.28 nonresidents, are:

- 5.29 (1) for persons age 18 or over to take small game, \$90.50;

- 6.1 (2) for persons age 18 or over to take deer with firearms during the regular firearms  
6.2 season, \$180;
- 6.3 (3) for persons age 18 or over to take deer by archery, \$180;
- 6.4 (4) for persons age 18 or over to take deer by muzzleloader during the muzzleloader  
6.5 season, \$180;
- 6.6 (5) for persons age 18 or over to take bear, \$225;
- 6.7 (6) for persons age 18 or over to take turkey, \$91;
- 6.8 (7) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take turkey, \$5;
- 6.9 (8) to take raccoon or bobcat, \$178;
- 6.10 (9) to take Canada geese during a special season, \$4;
- 6.11 (10) to take light geese during the light goose conservation order, \$2.50;
- 6.12 (11) to take sandhill crane during the sandhill crane season, \$3;
- 6.13 (12) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer with firearms during the  
6.14 regular firearms season in any open season option or time period, \$5;
- 6.15 (13) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer by archery, \$5;
- 6.16 (14) for persons age 13 or over and under age 18 to take deer during the muzzleloader  
6.17 season, \$5;
- 6.18 (15) for persons age 13 or over and under 18 to take bear, \$5;
- 6.19 (16) for persons age 18 or over to take small game for a consecutive 72-hour period  
6.20 selected by the licensee, \$75, of which an amount equal to one-half of the fee for the  
6.21 migratory-waterfowl stamp under subdivision 5, clause (1), shall be deposited in the  
6.22 waterfowl habitat improvement account under section 97A.075, subdivision 2; one-half of  
6.23 the fee for the pheasant stamp under subdivision 5, clause (2), shall be deposited in the  
6.24 pheasant habitat improvement account under section 97A.075, subdivision 4; and one-half  
6.25 of the small-game surcharge under subdivision 4, shall be deposited into the wildlife  
6.26 acquisition account;
- 6.27 (17) for persons age 16 or 17 to take small game, \$5;
- 6.28 ~~(18) to take wolf, \$250;~~
- 6.29 ~~(19)~~ (18) for persons age 12 and under to take turkey, no fee;
- 6.30 ~~(20)~~ (19) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by firearm, no fee;

7.1 ~~(21)~~ (20) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by archery, no fee;

7.2 ~~(22)~~ (21) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take deer by muzzleloader during the  
7.3 muzzleloader season, no fee; and

7.4 ~~(23)~~ (22) for persons age 10, 11, or 12 to take bear, no fee.

7.5 (b) A \$5 surcharge shall be added to nonresident hunting licenses issued under paragraph  
7.6 (a), clauses (1) to (6) and (8). An additional commission may not be assessed on this  
7.7 surcharge.

7.8 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.475, subdivision 20, is amended to read:

7.9 Subd. 20. **Trapping licenses.** ~~(a)~~ The fee for a license to trap fur-bearing animals, ~~other~~  
7.10 ~~than wolves,~~ is:

7.11 (1) for residents over age 13 and under age 18, \$5;

7.12 (2) for residents age 18 or over and under age 65, \$23;

7.13 (3) for residents age 65 or over, \$11.50; and

7.14 (4) for nonresidents, \$84.

7.15 ~~(b) The fee for a license to trap wolves is \$30, to be issued to residents only.~~

7.16 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.485, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

7.17 Subd. 6. **Licenses to be sold and issuing fees.** (a) Persons authorized to sell licenses  
7.18 under this section must issue the following licenses for the license fee and the following  
7.19 issuing fees:

7.20 (1) to take deer or bear with firearms and by archery, the issuing fee is \$1;

7.21 (2) Minnesota sporting, the issuing fee is \$1;

7.22 (3) to take small game, to take fish by angling or by spearing, and to trap fur-bearing  
7.23 animals, the issuing fee is \$1;

7.24 (4) to apply for a limited hunt drawing, the issuing fee is \$1 unless the application requires  
7.25 a license purchase at the time of application and the license purchase requires an application  
7.26 fee;

7.27 (5) for a prairie-chicken license, the issuing fee is \$1;

7.28 (6) for a turkey license, the issuing fee is \$1;

7.29 (7) for an elk license, the issuing fee is \$1;

- 8.1 (8) for a moose license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 8.2 ~~(9) for a wolf license, the issuing fee is \$1;~~
- 8.3 ~~(10)~~ (9) for a stamp validation that is not issued simultaneously with a license, an issuing  
8.4 fee of 50 cents may be charged at the discretion of the authorized seller;
- 8.5 ~~(11)~~ (10) for stamp validations issued simultaneously with a license, there is no fee;
- 8.6 ~~(12)~~ (11) for licenses, seals, tags, or coupons issued without a fee under section 97A.441,  
8.7 subdivisions 1 to 6a, or 97A.465, there is no fee;
- 8.8 ~~(13)~~ (12) for lifetime licenses, there is no fee; and
- 8.9 ~~(14)~~ (13) for all other licenses, permits, renewals, or applications or any other transaction  
8.10 through the electronic licensing system under this chapter or any other chapter when an  
8.11 issuing fee is not specified, an issuing fee of \$1 may be charged at the discretion of the  
8.12 authorized seller.
- 8.13 (b) Only one issuing fee may be collected when selling more than one stamp in the same  
8.14 transaction after the end of the season for which the stamp was issued.
- 8.15 (c) The agent shall keep the issuing fee as a commission for selling the licenses.
- 8.16 (d) The commissioner shall collect the issuing fee on licenses sold by the commissioner.
- 8.17 (e) A license, except stamps, must state the amount of the issuing fee and that the issuing  
8.18 fee is kept by the seller as a commission for selling the licenses.
- 8.19 (f) For duplicate licenses, including licenses issued without a fee, the issuing fees are:
- 8.20 (1) for licenses to take big game, 75 cents; and
- 8.21 (2) for other licenses, 50 cents.
- 8.22 (g) The commissioner may issue one-day angling licenses in books of ten licenses each  
8.23 to fishing guides operating charter boats upon receipt of payment of all license fees, excluding  
8.24 the issuing fee required under this section. Copies of sold and unsold licenses shall be  
8.25 returned to the commissioner. The commissioner shall refund the charter boat captain for  
8.26 the license fees of all unsold licenses. Copies of sold licenses shall be maintained by the  
8.27 commissioner for one year.

8.28 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.031, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.29 Subdivision 1. **Permissible firearms and ammunition; big game and wolves.** A person  
8.30 may take big game ~~and wolves~~ with a firearm only if:

9.1 (1) the rifle, shotgun, and handgun used is a caliber of at least .22 inches and with  
9.2 centerfire ignition;

9.3 (2) the firearm is loaded only with single projectile ammunition;

9.4 (3) a projectile used is a caliber of at least .22 inches and has a soft point or is an  
9.5 expanding bullet type;

9.6 (4) the muzzleloader used is incapable of being loaded at the breech;

9.7 (5) the smooth-bore muzzleloader used is a caliber of at least .45 inches; and

9.8 (6) the rifled muzzleloader used is a caliber of at least .40 inches.

9.9 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.031, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

9.10 Subd. 2. **Handguns for small game.** A person may take small game with a handgun of  
9.11 any caliber in a manner prescribed by the commissioner, ~~except that wolves may only be~~  
9.12 ~~taken by hunting with the calibers specified in subdivision 1.~~

9.13 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.035, subdivision 1a, is amended to read:

9.14 Subd. 1a. **Minimum draw weight.** A bow used to take big game, or turkey, ~~or~~ wolves  
9.15 must have a pull that meets or exceeds 30 pounds at or before full draw.

9.16 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.075, is amended to read:

9.17 **97B.075 HUNTING RESTRICTED BETWEEN EVENING AND MORNING.**

9.18 (a) A person may not take protected wild animals, except raccoon and fox, with a firearm  
9.19 between the evening and morning times established by commissioner's rule, except as  
9.20 provided in this section.

9.21 (b) Big game ~~and~~ wolves may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until one-half  
9.22 hour after sunset.

9.23 (c) Except as otherwise prescribed by the commissioner on or before the Saturday nearest  
9.24 October 8, waterfowl may be taken from one-half hour before sunrise until sunset during  
9.25 the entire season prescribed by the commissioner.

9.26 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.601, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

9.27 Subd. 3a. **Nonresidents; trapping small game.** A nonresident may take small game,  
9.28 ~~except~~ wolves, by trapping only on land owned by the nonresident, if the nonresident

10.1 possesses a trapping license for fur-bearing animals ~~other than wolves~~ and a small-game  
10.2 license.

10.3 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.601, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

10.4 Subd. 4. **Exception to license requirements.** (a) A resident under age 16 may take small  
10.5 game, ~~other than wolves~~, without a small-game license, and a resident under age 13 may  
10.6 trap small game and fur-bearing animals, ~~other than wolves~~, without a trapping license, as  
10.7 provided in section 97A.451, subdivision 3.

10.8 (b) A person may take small game, ~~other than wolves~~, without a small-game license on  
10.9 land occupied by the person as a principal residence.

10.10 (c) An owner or occupant may take certain small game causing damage without a  
10.11 small-game or trapping license as provided in section 97B.655.

10.12 (d) A person may use dogs to pursue and tree raccoons under section 97B.621, subdivision  
10.13 2, during the closed season without a license.

10.14 (e) A person may take a ~~wolf~~, turkey, or prairie chicken without a small-game license.

10.15 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.603, is amended to read:

10.16 **97B.603 TAKING SMALL GAME BY PARTY.**

10.17 (a) While two or more persons are taking small game as a party and maintaining unaided  
10.18 visual and vocal contact, a member of the party may take and possess more than one limit  
10.19 of small game, but the total number of small game taken and possessed by the party may  
10.20 not exceed the limit of the number of persons in the party that may take and possess small  
10.21 game.

10.22 (b) This section does not apply to hunting ~~wolves~~, migratory game birds, or turkeys,  
10.23 except that a licensed turkey hunter may assist another licensed turkey hunter ~~and a licensed~~  
10.24 ~~wolf hunter may assist another licensed wolf hunter~~ for the same zone and time period as  
10.25 long as the hunter does not shoot or tag a turkey ~~or wolf~~ for the other hunter.

11.1 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.605, is amended to read:

11.2 **97B.605 COMMISSIONER MAY RESTRICT TAKING SMALL GAME**  
 11.3 **ANIMALS.**

11.4 The commissioner may by rule set open seasons for, prescribe limits and restrictions  
 11.5 on, and designate areas where small game as defined in section 97A.015, excluding wolves,  
 11.6 may be taken and possessed.

11.7 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.645, subdivision 9, is amended to read:

11.8 Subd. 9. **No open season.** There ~~shall be~~ is no open season for wolves ~~until after the~~  
 11.9 ~~wolf is delisted under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973. After that time, the~~  
 11.10 ~~commissioner may prescribe open seasons and restrictions for taking wolves but must~~  
 11.11 ~~provide opportunity for public comment.~~

11.12 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.648, is amended to read:

11.13 **97B.648 WOLVES; UNLAWFUL TAKING; PENALTY.**

11.14 A person who unlawfully takes, transports, or possesses a wolf in violation of the game  
 11.15 and fish laws, ~~and has one or more prior convictions involving the taking of wolves~~ is guilty  
 11.16 of a gross misdemeanor and, in addition to the penalties prescribed in section 97A.301,  
 11.17 subdivision 2, is liable for a civil penalty equal to the restitution value for the wolf.

11.18 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.901, is amended to read:

11.19 **97B.901 REGISTRATION AND TAGGING FUR-BEARING ANIMALS.**

11.20 (a) The commissioner may, by rule, require persons taking, possessing, and transporting  
 11.21 fur-bearing animals to tag the animals. The commissioner shall prescribe the manner of  
 11.22 issuance and the type of tag, which must show the year of issuance. The commissioner shall  
 11.23 issue the tag, without a fee, upon request.

11.24 (b) The pelt of each bobcat, fisher, pine marten, and otter, ~~and wolf~~ must be presented,  
 11.25 by the person taking it, to a state wildlife manager designee for registration before the pelt  
 11.26 is sold and before the pelt is transported out of the state, but in no event more than 48 hours  
 11.27 after the season closes for the species.

11.28 (c) ~~The whole carcass of each wolf, with the pelt removed, must be presented by the~~  
 11.29 ~~person taking it to a state wildlife manager designee for registration before the pelt is sold~~  
 11.30 ~~and before the pelt is transported out of the state, but in no event more than 48 hours after~~

- 12.1 ~~the season closes. The commissioner may require that the entire carcass or samples from~~  
12.2 ~~the carcass be surrendered to the state wildlife manager designee.~~

12.3 Sec. 22. **REVISOR INSTRUCTION.**

- 12.4 The revisor of statutes must correct cross-references wherever they occur in statute  
12.5 consistent with the renumbering in this act.

12.6 Sec. 23. **REPEALER.**

- 12.7 Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.647, is repealed.

**97B.647 TAKING WOLVES.**

Subdivision 1. **License required.** Except as provided under section 97B.645 or 97B.671, a person may not take a wolf without a wolf-hunting or wolf-trapping license.

Subd. 2. **Open seasons.** Wolves may be taken with legal firearms, with bow and arrow, and by trapping. The open season to take wolves with firearms begins each year on the same day as the opening of the firearms deer-hunting season. The commissioner may by rule prescribe the open seasons for wolves according to this subdivision.

Subd. 3. **Open areas.** The commissioner may by rule designate areas where wolves may be taken.

Subd. 4. **Daily and possession limits.** The commissioner may establish by rule the daily and possession limits for wolves.

Subd. 5. **Limit on number of hunters and trappers.** The commissioner may by rule limit the number of persons that may hunt or trap wolves in an area, if it is necessary to prevent an overharvest or improve the distribution of hunters and trappers. The commissioner shall establish a method, including a drawing, to impartially select the hunters and trappers for an area.

Subd. 6. **Application for license.** An application for a wolf-hunting or wolf-trapping license must be made in a manner provided by the commissioner and accompanied by a \$4 application fee and proof that the applicant holds a current or previous year hunting license. The \$4 application fee shall be credited to the wolf management and monitoring account and appropriated to the commissioner to pay for costs associated with conducting the wolf license drawing and wolf management. A person may not make more than one application for each season as prescribed by the commissioner. If a person makes more than one application, the person is ineligible for a license for that season after determination by the commissioner, without a hearing.

Subd. 7. **Quotas.** The commissioner may by rule set an annual quota for the number of wolves that can be taken by hunting and trapping. The commissioner may establish a method to monitor harvest and close the season when the quota is reached. The commissioner shall reserve a portion of the annual quota for the trapping season.