

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-SECOND SESSION

S.F. No. 4509

(SENATE AUTHORS: UTKE)

DATE
04/21/2022

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OFFICIAL STATUS
Introduction and first reading
Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance

- 1.1 A bill for an act
- 1.2 relating to game and fish; allowing accumulation of bear hunter preference points
- 1.3 for youth; amending Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.405.
- 1.4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:
- 1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.405, is amended to read:
- 1.6 **97B.405 COMMISSIONER MAY LIMIT NUMBER OF BEAR HUNTERS.**
- 1.7 (a) The commissioner may limit the number of persons that may hunt bear in an area,
- 1.8 if it is necessary to prevent an overharvest or improve the distribution of hunters. The
- 1.9 commissioner may establish, by rule, a method, including a drawing, to impartially select
- 1.10 the hunters for an area. The commissioner shall give preference to hunters that have
- 1.11 previously applied and have not been selected. Additionally, the commissioner may award
- 1.12 points toward a preference under this section to a person who is too young to be a bear
- 1.13 hunter so that by the time the person is old enough to be a bear hunter the person has
- 1.14 accumulated a number of preference points.
- 1.15 (b) If the commissioner limits the number of persons that may hunt bear in an area under
- 1.16 paragraph (a), the commissioner must reserve one permit and give first preference for that
- 1.17 permit to a resident of a Minnesota veterans home.
- 1.18 (c) A person selected through a drawing must purchase a license by August 1. Any
- 1.19 remaining available licenses not purchased shall be issued to any eligible person as prescribed
- 1.20 by the commissioner on a first-come, first-served basis beginning three business days after
- 1.21 August 1.