

A bill for an act
relating to natural resources; requiring the commissioner of natural resources
to implement management strategies for deer in the bovine tuberculosis
management zone.

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

Section 1. **DEER MANAGEMENT IN BOVINE TUBERCULOSIS
MANAGEMENT ZONE.**

(a) The commissioner of natural resources shall implement the following
management strategies to improve the deer population in the bovine tuberculosis
management zone, deer permit area 101, established in Beltrami, Lake of the Woods,
Marshall, and Roseau Counties:

(1) petition the United States Department of Agriculture to reduce the quota of deer
to be sampled in the bovine tuberculosis management zone;

(2) partner with local agencies, businesses, and deer hunters to develop strategies
to ensure that hunter-harvested deer satisfy the annual quota to be tested for bovine
tuberculosis;

(3) establish a pilot project to transition deer permit area 101 from a disease
management zone to a deer habitat improvement zone; and

(4) establish a deer habitat improvement work group as a subgroup of the Bovine
Tuberculosis Stakeholder Committee to develop local management strategies and tactics
to improve deer habitat and assist in the implementation of land management practices to
optimize year-round deer habitat.

(b) Bovine tuberculosis testing shall continue in the area described in paragraph (a).

EFFECTIVE DATE. This section is effective the day following final enactment.