

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 553

(SENATE AUTHORS: WESENBERG, Westrom and Anderson)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/23/2025	159	Introduction and first reading
02/03/2025	241a	Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband, and Rural Development
03/24/2025	1023	Comm report: Amended, No recommendation, re-referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy
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1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to agriculture; modifying fencing requirements for farmed Cervidae;

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amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 4.

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

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Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

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Subd. 4. **Fencing.** Farmed Cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent

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escape. All perimeter fences for farmed Cervidae must be at least 96 inches in height and

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be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed Cervidae; and

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entry into the premises by free-roaming Cervidae; ~~and physical contact between farmed~~

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~~Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae.~~ Perimeter fences must also prevent physical contact

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between farmed Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae, but only at facilities where the state

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has paid the costs of fence installation to meet this requirement. The Board of Animal Health

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or commissioner of natural resources may determine whether the construction and

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maintenance of fencing is adequate to prevent physical contact or escape under this

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subdivision and may compel corrective action when fencing is determined to be inadequate.

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All new fencing installed and all fencing used to repair deficiencies must be high tensile.

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All entry areas for farmed Cervidae enclosure areas must have two redundant gates, which

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must be maintained to prevent the escape of animals through an open gate. If a fence

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deficiency allows entry or exit by farmed or wild Cervidae, the owner must immediately

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repair the deficiency. All other deficiencies must be repaired within a reasonable time, as

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determined by the Board of Animal Health, not to exceed 14 days. If a fence deficiency is

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detected during an inspection, the facility must be reinspected at least once in the subsequent

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three months. The farmed Cervidae owner must pay a reinspection fee equal to one-half the

2.1 applicable annual inspection fee under subdivision 7a for each reinspection related to a
2.2 fence violation. If the facility experiences more than one escape incident in any six-month
2.3 period or fails to correct a deficiency found during an inspection, the board may revoke the
2.4 facility's registration and order the owner to remove or destroy the animals as directed by
2.5 the board. ~~If the board revokes a facility's registration, the commissioner of natural resources~~
2.6 ~~may seize and destroy animals at the facility.~~