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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. **1406**

03/04/2015 Authored by Hackbarth

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy

A bill for an act

1.1 relating to natural resources; modifying certain authorities; extending expiration  
1.2 of citizen oversight committees; providing for compliance with federal law;  
1.3 modifying enforcement provisions; modifying provisions to take, possess, and  
1.4 transport wild animals; providing for certain licenses; modifying landowner's  
1.5 bill of rights; providing criminal penalties; requiring rulemaking; amending  
1.6 Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 84.027, subdivision 13a; 84.0274, subdivisions  
1.7 3, 5; 84D.03, subdivision 3; 97A.045, subdivision 11; 97A.055, subdivision  
1.8 4b; 97A.057, subdivision 1; 97A.211, subdivisions 1, 2; 97A.255, subdivision  
1.9 4; 97A.425, subdivisions 1, 2; 97A.435, subdivision 4; 97A.475, subdivision  
1.10 21, by adding a subdivision; 97B.001, subdivision 7; 97B.081, subdivision 3;  
1.11 97B.085, subdivision 2; 97B.668; 97B.701, by adding a subdivision; 97B.905,  
1.12 subdivision 1; 97B.931, subdivision 2; 97C.005, subdivision 3; 97C.301, by  
1.13 adding a subdivision; 97C.345, by adding a subdivision; 97C.501, subdivision  
1.14 2; proposing coding for new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 97A; 97B;  
1.15 repealing Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 97A.475, subdivision 25; 97B.905,  
1.16 subdivision 3; Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subparts 27, 28.

1.17  
1.18 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

1.19 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 84.027, subdivision 13a, is amended to read:

1.20 Subd. 13a. **Game and fish expedited permanent rules.** (a) In addition to the  
1.21 authority granted in subdivision 13, the commissioner of natural resources may adopt rules  
1.22 under section 14.389 that are authorized under:

1.23 (1) chapters 97A, 97B, and 97C to describe zone or permit area boundaries, to  
1.24 designate fish spawning beds or fish preserves, to select hunters or anglers for areas,  
1.25 to provide for registration of game or fish, to prevent or control wildlife disease, or to  
1.26 correct errors or omissions in rules that do not have a substantive effect on the intent or  
1.27 application of the original rule; or

1.28 (2) section 84D.12 to list prohibited invasive species, regulated invasive species, and  
1.29 unregulated nonnative species.

2.1 (b) The commissioner of natural resources may adopt rules under section 14.389  
 2.2 that are authorized under chapters 97A, 97B, and 97C for purposes in addition to those  
 2.3 listed in paragraph (a), clause (1), subject to the notice and public hearing provisions  
 2.4 of section 14.389, subdivision 5.

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

2.6 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 84.0274, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.7 Subd. 3. **Condemnation limits.** No lands shall be acquired by the commissioner  
 2.8 of natural resources by means of condemnation unless the owner requests that the  
 2.9 owner's lands be condemned or the condemnation is specifically authorized by law.

2.10 Notwithstanding subdivision 5, paragraph (g), and sections 117.52 and 117.521, the owner  
 2.11 shall not be paid relocation costs when the owner requests that their lands be condemned.

2.12 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 84.0274, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

2.13 Subd. 5. **Owner's rights.** When the state proposes to purchase in fee or any lesser  
 2.14 interest in land which will be administered by the commissioner of natural resources, the  
 2.15 landowner shall have the following rights:

2.16 (a) the right to be informed of the specific intended use of the property and of any  
 2.17 change in the intended use of the property which occurs during the acquisition process.

2.18 The owner shall also be informed that the documents regarding the purchase will be public  
 2.19 records if the land is purchased by the state;

2.20 (b) the right to be paid a fair price for the property. The price shall include the  
 2.21 fair market value of the land plus:

2.22 (1) all necessary incidental costs such as abstracting and recording fees related  
 2.23 to the sale. The costs of clearing title defects, paying taxes, and attorney's fees are not  
 2.24 reimbursable; and

2.25 (2) any penalties incurred by the owner where the property is security for a loan or  
 2.26 advance of credit that contains a provision requiring or permitting the imposition of a  
 2.27 penalty if the loan or advance of credit is prepaid;

2.28 (c) the right to payment, at the owner's election, in a lump sum or in up to four  
 2.29 annual installments;

2.30 (d) the right to have the property fairly appraised by the state. The state's appraiser  
 2.31 shall physically inspect the property and the owner shall be allowed to accompany the  
 2.32 appraiser when the appraisal is made. The state's appraiser shall certify in the appraisal  
 2.33 report to having physically inspected the property and having given the landowner an  
 2.34 opportunity to accompany the appraiser on inspections. Notwithstanding section 13.44,

3.1 subdivision 3, before an offer is made, the landowner shall be informed of the value  
3.2 determined pursuant to section 84.0272;

3.3 (e) the right to retain a qualified independent appraiser to conduct an appraisal at any  
3.4 time prior to certification of the state's appraisal of the property ~~and to be reimbursed for~~  
3.5 ~~appraisal fees as provided in section 117.232, subdivision 1, if the land is sold to the state~~  
3.6 and to have that appraisal considered along with the state's in certifying the selling price  
3.7 and the right to be reimbursed for appraisal fees up to \$1,500 if the land is sold to the state;

3.8 (f) the right to have the state acquire the property by means of condemnation upon  
3.9 the owner's request with the agreement of the commissioner;

3.10 (g) when the property is being acquired by condemnation or the condemnation is  
3.11 specifically authorized by law, the right to receive or waive relocation assistance, services,  
3.12 payments and benefits as provided in sections 117.52 and 117.521 and to contest the state's  
3.13 offer for relocation and moving expenses;

3.14 (h) the right to accept the state's offer for the property ~~and contest the state's offer for~~  
3.15 ~~relocation and moving expenses;~~

3.16 (i) the right to continue occupancy of the property until full payment is received,  
3.17 provided that when the owner elects to receive payment in annual installments pursuant to  
3.18 clause (c), the owner may retain occupancy until the first payment is made; and

3.19 (j) the right to seek the advice of counsel regarding any aspect of the land transaction.

3.20 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 84D.03, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

3.21 Subd. 3. **Bait harvest from infested waters.** (a) Taking wild animals from infested  
3.22 waters for bait or aquatic farm purposes is prohibited, except as provided in paragraph (b),  
3.23 (c), or (d) and section 97C.341.

3.24 (b) In waters that are listed as infested waters, except those listed ~~because they~~  
3.25 ~~contain~~ as infested with prohibited invasive species of fish or certifiable diseases of fish, as  
3.26 defined under section 17.4982, subdivision 6, taking wild animals may be permitted for:

3.27 (1) commercial taking of wild animals for bait and aquatic farm purposes ~~according~~  
3.28 ~~to~~ as provided in a permit issued under section 84D.11, subject to rules adopted by the  
3.29 commissioner; and

3.30 (2) bait purposes for noncommercial personal use in waters that contain Eurasian  
3.31 water milfoil, when the infested waters are listed solely because they contain Eurasian  
3.32 water milfoil and if the equipment for taking is limited to cylindrical minnow traps not  
3.33 exceeding 16 inches in diameter and 32 inches in length; ~~and.~~

3.34 ~~(3)~~ (c) In streams or rivers that are listed as infested waters, except those listed as  
3.35 infested with certifiable diseases of fish, as defined under section 17.4982, subdivision 6,

4.1 the harvest of bullheads, goldeyes, mooneyes, sheepshead (freshwater drum), and suckers  
 4.2 for bait from streams or rivers listed as infested waters, by hook and line for noncommercial  
 4.3 personal use. Other provisions that apply to this clause are is allowed as follows:

4.4 (i) (1) fish taken under this clause paragraph must be used on the same body of water  
 4.5 where caught and while still on that water body. Where the river or stream is divided by  
 4.6 barriers such as dams, the fish must be caught and used on the same section of the river  
 4.7 or stream;

4.8 (ii) (2) fish taken under this clause paragraph may not be transported live from or  
 4.9 off the water body;

4.10 (iii) (3) fish harvested under this clause paragraph may only be used in accordance  
 4.11 with this section;

4.12 (iv) (4) any other use of wild animals used for bait from infested waters is prohibited;

4.13 (v) (5) fish taken under this clause paragraph must meet all other size restrictions  
 4.14 and requirements as established in rules; and

4.15 (vi) (6) all species listed under this clause paragraph shall be included in the person's  
 4.16 daily limit as established in rules, if applicable.

4.17 (d) In the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls and the St.  
 4.18 Croix River downstream of the dam at Taylors Falls, including portions described as  
 4.19 Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters in Minnesota Rules, part 6266.0500, subpart 1,  
 4.20 items A and B, the harvest of gizzard shad by cast net for noncommercial personal use as  
 4.21 bait for angling, as provided in a permit issued under section 84D.11, is allowed as follows:

4.22 (1) nontarget species must immediately be returned to the water;

4.23 (2) gizzard shad taken under this paragraph must be used on the same body of water  
 4.24 where caught and while still on that water body. Where the river is divided by barriers  
 4.25 such as dams, the gizzard shad must be caught and used on the same section of the river;

4.26 (3) gizzard shad taken under this paragraph may not be transported off the water  
 4.27 body; and

4.28 (4) gizzard shad harvested under this paragraph may only be used in accordance  
 4.29 with this section.

4.30 This paragraph expires December 1, 2017.

4.31 (e) (e) Equipment authorized for minnow harvest in a listed infested water by permit  
 4.32 issued under paragraph (b) may not be transported to, or used in, any waters other than  
 4.33 waters specified in the permit.

4.34 Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.045, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

5.1 Subd. 11. **Power to prevent or control wildlife disease.** (a) If the commissioner  
 5.2 determines that action is necessary to prevent or control a wildlife disease, the  
 5.3 commissioner may prevent or control wildlife disease in a species of wild animal in  
 5.4 addition to the protection provided by the game and fish laws by further limiting, closing,  
 5.5 expanding, or opening seasons or areas of the state; by reducing or increasing limits in  
 5.6 areas of the state; by establishing disease management zones; by authorizing free licenses;  
 5.7 by allowing shooting from motor vehicles by persons designated by the commissioner;  
 5.8 by issuing replacement licenses for sick animals; by requiring sample collection from  
 5.9 hunter-harvested animals; by limiting wild animal possession, transportation, and  
 5.10 disposition; and by restricting wildlife feeding.

5.11 (b) The commissioner shall restrict wildlife feeding within the modified accredited  
 5.12 bovine tuberculosis zone proposed by the Board of Animal Health. In addition to any  
 5.13 other penalties provided by law, a person who violates wildlife feeding restrictions  
 5.14 required under this paragraph may not obtain a hunting license to take a wild animal  
 5.15 for two years after the date of conviction.

5.16 (c) The commissioner may prevent or control wildlife disease in a species of wild  
 5.17 animal in the state by posting restrictions on public access to active disease areas or by  
 5.18 emergency rule adopted under section 84.027, subdivision 13.

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

5.20 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.055, subdivision 4b, is amended to read:

5.21 Subd. 4b. **Citizen oversight committees.** (a) The commissioner shall appoint  
 5.22 committees of affected persons to review the reports prepared under subdivision 4; review  
 5.23 the proposed work plans and budgets for the coming year; propose changes in policies,  
 5.24 activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; review other relevant information;  
 5.25 and make recommendations to the legislature and the commissioner for improvements in  
 5.26 the management and use of money in the game and fish fund.

5.27 (b) The commissioner shall appoint the following committees, each comprised  
 5.28 of at least ten affected persons:

5.29 (1) a Fisheries Oversight Committee to review fisheries funding and expenditures,  
 5.30 including activities related to trout and salmon stamps and walleye stamps; and

5.31 (2) a Wildlife Oversight Committee to review wildlife funding and expenditures,  
 5.32 including activities related to migratory waterfowl, pheasant, and wild turkey management  
 5.33 and deer and big game management.

5.34 (c) The chairs of the Fisheries Oversight Committee and the Wildlife Oversight  
 5.35 Committee, and four additional members from each committee, shall form a Budgetary

6.1 Oversight Committee to coordinate the integration of the fisheries and wildlife oversight  
 6.2 committee reports into an annual report to the legislature; recommend changes on a broad  
 6.3 level in policies, activities, and revenue enhancements or reductions; and provide a forum  
 6.4 to address issues that transcend the fisheries and wildlife oversight committees.

6.5 (d) The Budgetary Oversight Committee shall develop recommendations for a  
 6.6 biennial budget plan and report for expenditures on game and fish activities. By August 15  
 6.7 of each even-numbered year, the committee shall submit the budget plan recommendations  
 6.8 to the commissioner and to the senate and house of representatives committees with  
 6.9 jurisdiction over natural resources finance.

6.10 (e) The chairs of the Fisheries Oversight Committee and the Wildlife Oversight  
 6.11 Committee shall be chosen by their respective committees. The chair of the Budgetary  
 6.12 Oversight Committee shall be appointed by the commissioner and may not be the chair of  
 6.13 either of the other oversight committees.

6.14 (f) The Budgetary Oversight Committee may make recommendations to the  
 6.15 commissioner and to the senate and house of representatives committees with jurisdiction  
 6.16 over natural resources finance for outcome goals from expenditures.

6.17 (g) The committees authorized under this subdivision are not advisory councils or  
 6.18 committees governed by section 15.059 and are not subject to section 15.059. Committee  
 6.19 members appointed by the commissioner may request reimbursement for mileage  
 6.20 expenses in the same manner and amount as authorized by the commissioner's plan  
 6.21 adopted under section 43A.18, subdivision 2. Committee members must not receive daily  
 6.22 compensation for oversight activities. The Fisheries Oversight Committee, the Wildlife  
 6.23 Oversight Committee, and the Budgetary Oversight Committee expire June 30, ~~2015~~ 2020.

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

6.25 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.057, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

6.26 Subdivision 1. **Compliance with federal law.** The commissioner shall take any  
 6.27 action necessary to comply with the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, United  
 6.28 States Code, title 16, sections 669 to 669i, and the Federal Aid in Fish Restoration Act,  
 6.29 United States Code, title 16, sections 777 to 777k. Notwithstanding section 16E.145 or  
 6.30 any other law to the contrary, an appropriation for an information or telecommunications  
 6.31 technology project from the game and fish fund, as established in section 97A.055, must  
 6.32 be made to the commissioner. Any assets acquired with or expenditures made from the  
 6.33 game and fish fund must remain under control of the commissioner.

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

7.1 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.211, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

7.2 Subdivision 1. **Notice to appear in court.** (a) A person must be given notice to  
7.3 appear in court for a misdemeanor violation of the game and fish laws; chapter 84, 84D,  
7.4 103E, or 103G; sections 103F.201 to 103F.221; or section 103F.601 or 609.68 if:

7.5 (1) the person is arrested and is released from custody prior to appearing before a  
7.6 court; or

7.7 (2) the person is subject to a lawful arrest and is not arrested because it reasonably  
7.8 appears to the enforcement officer that arrest is unnecessary to prevent further criminal  
7.9 conduct and that there is a substantial likelihood that the person will respond to a notice.

7.10 (b) The enforcement officer shall prepare, ~~in quadruplicate,~~ a written or electronic  
7.11 notice to appear in court as provided by Rules of Criminal Procedure and section 169.99.

7.12 The notice must be in the form and has the effect of a summons and complaint. The notice  
7.13 must contain the name and address of the person charged, and the offense, and. The notice  
7.14 must contain the time and the place to appear in court. ~~The court must have jurisdiction~~  
7.15 ~~within the county where the offense is alleged to have been committed~~ or must direct the  
7.16 defendant to contact the court or violations bureau to schedule an appearance.

7.17 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.211, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

7.18 Subd. 2. **Release after arrest.** A person arrested for a misdemeanor violation of  
7.19 the game and fish laws; chapter 84, 84D, 103E, or 103G; sections 103F.201 to 103F.221;  
7.20 or section 103F.601 or 609.68 may obtain release by ~~signing the written notice prepared~~  
7.21 ~~by the arresting officer~~ promising to appear in court. The officer shall deliver a ~~copy~~  
7.22 ~~marked "SUMMONS"~~ notice to the person arrested. The officer must then release the  
7.23 person from custody.

7.24 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.255, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

7.25 Subd. 4. **Each violation a separate offense; prosecution of aggregated offenses.**

7.26 (a) Except as allowed in paragraph (b), each wild animal unlawfully taken, bought,  
7.27 sold, transported, or possessed is a separate offense. If acquitted, a person may not be  
7.28 prosecuted for a similar offense involving another animal in the same incident.

7.29 (b) In any prosecution that involves two or more offenses committed by the same  
7.30 person within six months in two or more counties, the accused may be prosecuted in any  
7.31 county in which one of the offenses was committed for all of the offenses in aggregate.

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

7.33 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.425, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

8.1 Subdivision 1. **License and record requirements.** (a) A person must have the  
 8.2 required license under the game and fish laws to buy or sell wild animals, to tan animal  
 8.3 hides or dress raw furs, to prepare fur-bearing animals for another, or to mount specimens  
 8.4 of wild animals and must keep complete records of all transactions and activities covered  
 8.5 by the license and submit reports to the commissioner.

8.6 (b) A licensed fur buyer operating under a master fur buyer license is not required  
 8.7 to keep separate individual records if the records are included with the master fur buyer  
 8.8 records.

8.9 (c) A person is not required to be licensed to tan animal hides, prepare fur-bearing  
 8.10 animals for another, or dress raw furs or to mount specimens of wild animals if the person  
 8.11 is not compensated for the service.

8.12 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

8.13 Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.425, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

8.14 Subd. 2. **Records.** (a) The records must show:

8.15 (1) the names and addresses of persons from whom wild animals were obtained and  
 8.16 to whom they were transferred;

8.17 (2) the dates of receipt, shipment, and sale of wild animals;

8.18 (3) detailed descriptions of the number and type of wild animals purchased, sold,  
 8.19 and shipped;

8.20 (4) serial numbers of seals, tags, or permits required to be attached to the wild  
 8.21 animals; and

8.22 (5) trapping license numbers for protected fur-bearing animals, unless the trapper is  
 8.23 exempt from the license requirement, which must be noted.

8.24 ~~(b) A licensed fur dealer, buying for one employer at the employer's place of~~  
 8.25 ~~business, is not required to keep separate records if the employer notifies the commissioner~~  
 8.26 ~~in writing that the employer will account for the fur dealer.~~

8.27 ~~(e)~~ (b) The records required under this section must be available for inspection by  
 8.28 the commissioner, the director, or their agents at all reasonable times. The records must be  
 8.29 preserved and available for two years after the expiration of a license that required them.

8.30 ~~(d)~~ (c) Records required of persons licensed to buy or sell wild animals, prepare  
 8.31 fur-bearing animals for another, or to tan or dress raw furs, must be kept in a book supplied  
 8.32 or approved by the commissioner.

8.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

9.1 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.435, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

9.2 Subd. 4. **Separate selection of eligible licensees.** (a) The commissioner may  
9.3 conduct a separate selection for up to 20 percent of the turkey licenses to be issued for any  
9.4 area. Only persons who are owners or tenants of and who live on at least 40 acres of land  
9.5 in the permit area, and their family members who live on the qualifying land, are eligible  
9.6 applicants for turkey licenses for the separate selection. The qualifying land may be  
9.7 noncontiguous. Persons who are unsuccessful in a separate selection must be included in  
9.8 the selection for the remaining licenses. Persons who obtain a license in a separate selection  
9.9 must allow public turkey hunting on their land during that turkey season. A license issued  
9.10 under this subdivision is restricted to the permit area where the qualifying land is located.

9.11 (b) The commissioner may by rule establish criteria for determining eligible family  
9.12 members under this subdivision.

9.13 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.475, is amended by adding a  
9.14 subdivision to read:

9.15 Subd. 20a. **Preparing furbearers.** The fee for a license for a resident to prepare  
9.16 raw furs for compensation is \$10.

9.17 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

9.18 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.475, subdivision 21, is amended to read:

9.19 Subd. 21. **Fur buying and selling; residents.** (a) The fee for a license for a resident  
9.20 to buy and sell raw furs is \$110.

9.21 (b) The fee for a master fur buyer license for a resident fur buyer and one other  
9.22 person is \$165. The fee for a supplemental license to buy and sell furs to add an additional  
9.23 person under the license is \$55 per person.

9.24 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

9.25 Sec. 16. **[97A.56] FERAL SWINE.**

9.26 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For purposes of this section, "feral swine" means a  
9.27 member of the genus and species *Sus scrofa* that lives in the wild.

9.28 Subd. 2. **Prohibited actions; penalty.** (a) A person may not possess or release  
9.29 feral swine or swine that were feral during any part of the swines' lifetime or allow feral  
9.30 swine to run at large.

9.31 (b) A person may not hunt or trap feral swine, except as authorized by the  
9.32 commissioner for feral swine control or eradication.

10.1 (c) A person who violates this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

10.2 Subd. 3. **Authorized removal of feral swine.** A person authorized under game and  
 10.3 fish laws to take feral swine is not liable to the owner for the value of the animals.

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

10.5 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.001, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

10.6 Subd. 7. **Use of firearms and taking in certain areas.** (a) ~~Unless otherwise~~  
 10.7 ~~provided by law,~~ A person may not discharge a firearm at a wild animal within 500 feet  
 10.8 of a building occupied by a human or livestock without the written permission of the  
 10.9 owner, occupant, or lessee:

10.10 (1) on another person's private land, if the land is not a licensed shooting preserve; or

10.11 (2) on a public road right-of-way.

10.12 (b) ~~No~~ A person may discharge not take a wild animal with a firearm within 500 feet  
 10.13 of a stockade or corral confining livestock for the purpose of normal livestock holding or  
 10.14 sorting operations without the permission of the owner, occupant, or lessee. This paragraph  
 10.15 does not apply to persons hunting during an established hunting season on ~~state-owned or~~  
 10.16 ~~local government-owned:~~ (1) their own private property, or (2) public land or water that is  
 10.17 not a road right-of-way. For the purposes of this paragraph, a "stockade or corral" means a  
 10.18 fenced enclosure for confining livestock that does not enclose an area greater than one acre.

10.19 (c) A person may not take a wild animal on any land where the person is prohibited  
 10.20 from entering by this section.

10.21 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.081, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

10.22 Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** (a) It is not a violation of this section for a person to:

10.23 (1) cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light to take raccoons  
 10.24 according to section 97B.621, subdivision 3, or tend traps according to section 97B.931;

10.25 (2) hunt fox or coyote from January 1 to March 15 while using a handheld artificial  
 10.26 light, provided that the person is:

10.27 (i) on foot;

10.28 (ii) using a shotgun;

10.29 (iii) not within a public road right-of-way;

10.30 (iv) using a handheld or electronic calling device; and

10.31 (v) not within 200 feet of a motor vehicle; or

10.32 (3) cast the rays of a handheld artificial light to retrieve wounded or dead big game  
 10.33 animals, provided that the person is:

10.34 (i) on foot; and

11.1 (ii) not in possession of a firearm or bow.

11.2 (b) It is not a violation of subdivision 2 for a person to cast the rays of a spotlight,  
11.3 headlight, or other artificial light to:

11.4 (1) carry out any agricultural, safety, emergency response, normal vehicle operation,  
11.5 or occupation-related activities that do not involve taking wild animals; or

11.6 (2) carry out outdoor recreation as defined in section 97B.001 that is not related to  
11.7 spotting, locating, or taking a wild animal.

11.8 (c) Except as otherwise provided by the game and fish laws, it is not a violation of  
11.9 this section for a person to use an electronic range finder device from one-half hour before  
11.10 sunrise until one-half hour after sunset while lawfully hunting wild animals.

11.11 (d) It is not a violation of this section for a licensed bear hunter to cast the rays of a  
11.12 handheld artificial light to track or retrieve a wounded or dead bear while possessing a  
11.13 firearm, provided that the person:

11.14 (1) has their valid bear hunting license in their possession;

11.15 (2) is on foot; and

11.16 (3) is following the blood trail of a bear that was shot during legal shooting hours.

11.17 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.085, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

11.18 Subd. 2. **Taking unprotected wild animals; permit required.** A person may not  
11.19 use radio equipment to take unprotected wild animals without a permit. The commissioner  
11.20 may issue a permit to take unprotected animals with radio equipment. The commissioner  
11.21 shall cancel the permit upon receiving a valid complaint of misconduct regarding the  
11.22 permittee's hunting activities.

11.23 Sec. 20. **[97B.427] FEEDING BEARS.**

11.24 (a) Except as provided in sections 97B.425 and 97B.426, a person may not place,  
11.25 deposit, or allow the placement of feed to attract bears.

11.26 (b) If a bear is feeding on food placed by a person for storage, disposal, feeding  
11.27 wildlife other than as provided in paragraph (d), clause (1), or other purpose not  
11.28 specifically exempt in paragraph (d), all food that is accessible to the bear must be  
11.29 immediately removed when the person becomes aware or is notified that a bear is feeding  
11.30 at the site. Feed accessible by bears and subsequently removed may not be replaced at the  
11.31 same site for a minimum of 30 days after removal.

11.32 (c) Feeding bear by hand or other physical contact is prohibited.

11.33 (d) It is not a violation of this section when:

12.1 (1) feed is placed solely for the purpose of attracting and feeding wild birds and  
 12.2 small mammals and placed in bird feeding devices and structures at a sufficient height  
 12.3 or of a design to prevent access by bear;

12.4 (2) feed is present solely as a result of normal agricultural, forest management, or  
 12.5 wildlife food planting practices;

12.6 (3) feed is placed for agricultural or livestock practices if livestock are present  
 12.7 and actively consuming the feed on a daily basis or if the feed is stored consistent with  
 12.8 normal agricultural practices; or

12.9 (4) a person is authorized to place food under a scientific, wildlife disease, or wildlife  
 12.10 damage permit issued by the commissioner under section 97A.401.

12.11 (e) A person violating this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

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

12.13 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.668, is amended to read:

12.14 **97B.668 ~~CANADA GEESE~~ GAME BIRDS CAUSING DAMAGE.**

12.15 Notwithstanding sections 97B.091 and 97B.805, subdivisions 1 and 2, a person or  
 12.16 agent of that person on lands and nonpublic waters owned or operated by the person  
 12.17 may nonlethally scare, haze, chase, or harass ~~Canada geese~~ game birds that are causing  
 12.18 property damage ~~from March 11 to August 31~~ at any time or place that a hunting season  
 12.19 for the game birds is not open. This section does not apply to public waters as defined  
 12.20 under section 103G.005, subdivision 15, ~~or~~ This section does not apply to migratory  
 12.21 waterfowl on nests and other federally protected game birds on nests, except geese on  
 12.22 nests unless when a permit is obtained under section 97A.401.

12.23 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.701, is amended by adding a  
 12.24 subdivision to read:

12.25 **Subd. 2a. Prohibition on luring or feeding owls.** (a) A person may not  
 12.26 intentionally feed or visually lure an owl with any object, substance, or food or with an  
 12.27 animal that is either dead or alive.

12.28 (b) This subdivision does not apply to:

12.29 (1) a person who possesses a valid permit issued under section 97A.041 or 97A.401;

12.30 or

12.31 (2) a person with a permit or other authorization issued by the United States Fish  
 12.32 and Wildlife Service valid for banding migratory birds.

12.33 (c) A person violating this subdivision is guilty of a misdemeanor.

13.1 Sec. 23. [97B.722] POSSESSION OF FIREARMS; HUNTING TURKEY.

13.2 (a) While afield hunting turkeys, licensees may not have in possession or control  
 13.3 any firearm or bow and arrow except those defined as legal for taking turkeys in rules  
 13.4 adopted by the commissioner.

13.5 (b) Paragraph (a) does not apply to a person carrying a handgun in compliance  
 13.6 with section 624.714.

13.7 Sec. 24. [97B.904] PREPARATION OF RAW FUR.

13.8 (a) A person may not prepare a fur-bearing animal for another person for  
 13.9 compensation, by pelting, fleshing, stretching, or other process, without a license to  
 13.10 prepare raw furs.

13.11 (b) A person preparing fur-bearing animals for another person under this section  
 13.12 is required to keep records as provided in section 97A.425 and must mark any animals  
 13.13 stored in their possession as provided in section 97A.505, subdivision 4.

13.14 (c) A person with a license to prepare raw furs may transport fur-bearing animals to  
 13.15 be prepared by the person, but may not present the pelt and carcass for registration for  
 13.16 another person. Any fur-bearing animals being transported under this paragraph must be  
 13.17 marked as provided in section 97A.505, subdivision 4.

13.18 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

13.19 Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.905, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

13.20 Subdivision 1. **License requirement.** (a) A person may not buy or sell raw furs  
 13.21 without a fur buying and selling license, except:

13.22 (1) a taxidermist licensed under section 97A.475, subdivision 19, and a fur  
 13.23 manufacturer are not required to have a license to buy raw furs from a person with fur  
 13.24 buying and selling licenses; and

13.25 (2) a person lawfully entitled to take fur-bearing animals is not required to have a  
 13.26 license to sell raw furs to a person with a fur buying and selling license.

13.27 (b) ~~An employee, partner, or officer buying or selling only for a raw fur dealer~~  
 13.28 ~~licensee at an established place of business licensed under section 97A.475, subdivision~~  
 13.29 ~~21, clause (a), may obtain a supplemental license under section 97A.475, subdivision 21,~~  
 13.30 ~~clause (b).~~ A fur buying and selling license under this subdivision is required to sell raw  
 13.31 fur to resident manufacturers or unlicensed nonresidents and to represent unlicensed  
 13.32 nonresidents as a broker or agent.

13.33 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

14.1 Sec. 26. [97B.927] TAKING FISHER, MARTEN, AND BOBCAT.

14.2 The commissioner may by rule limit the number of persons that may take fisher,  
 14.3 marten, and bobcat in an area, if it is necessary to prevent an overharvest or improve the  
 14.4 distribution of hunters and trappers. The commissioner, if necessary, shall establish a  
 14.5 method, including a drawing, to impartially select the hunters and trappers for an area.  
 14.6 Preference must be given to persons who have previously applied in the general selection  
 14.7 but have not been selected.

14.8 Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.931, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

14.9 Subd. 2. **Body-gripping traps.** A body-gripping, ~~conibear-type~~ trap ~~need not~~ must  
 14.10 be tended more frequently than at least once every each third calendar day.

14.11 Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.005, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

14.12 Subd. 3. **Seasons, limits, and other rules.** (a) The commissioner may, in  
 14.13 accordance with the procedures in subdivision 2, paragraphs (c) and (e), or by rule under  
 14.14 chapter 14, establish open seasons, limits, methods, and other requirements for taking fish  
 14.15 on special management waters.

14.16 (b) The commissioner may, by written order published in the State Register, amend  
 14.17 daily, possession, or size limits to make ~~midseason~~ adjustments based on available harvest,  
 14.18 angling pressure, and population data to manage the fisheries in:

14.19 (1) the 1837 Ceded Territory in compliance with the court orders in Mille Lacs Band  
 14.20 of Chippewa v. Minnesota, 119 S. Ct. 1187 (1999); or

14.21 (2) the state-managed waters of Upper Red Lake.

14.22 (c) The midseason adjustments in daily, possession, or size limits under paragraph  
 14.23 (b) are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does  
 14.24 not apply. Before the written order is effective, the commissioner shall attempt to notify  
 14.25 persons or groups of persons affected by the written order by public announcement,  
 14.26 posting, and other appropriate means as determined by the commissioner.

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

14.28 Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.301, is amended by adding a  
 14.29 subdivision to read:

14.30 Subd. 4a. **Minnow dealers.** (a) A minnow dealer licensee and helpers listed on  
 14.31 the minnow dealer's license must have an angling license in addition to the required  
 14.32 minnow dealer's licenses.

15.1 (b) Employees of the minnow dealer who take or assist in taking minnows must  
 15.2 have an angling license.

15.3 (c) This subdivision does not apply to persons specifically authorized in law to take  
 15.4 fish by angling without an angling license.

15.5 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

15.6 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.345, is amended by adding a  
 15.7 subdivision to read:

15.8 Subd. 3a. **Cast nets for gizzard shad.** (a) Cast nets may be used only to take  
 15.9 gizzard shad for use as bait for angling:

15.10 (1) from July 1 to November 30; and

15.11 (2) from the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls and the St.  
 15.12 Croix River downstream of the dam at Taylors Falls, including portions described as  
 15.13 Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters in Minnesota Rules, part 6266.0500, subpart  
 15.14 1, items A and B, that are listed as infested waters as allowed under section 84D.03,  
 15.15 subdivision 3.

15.16 (b) Cast nets used under this subdivision must be monofilament and may not exceed  
 15.17 seven feet in diameter, and mesh size must be from three-eighths to five-eighths inch bar  
 15.18 measure.

15.19 (c) This subdivision expires December 1, 2017. The commissioner must report  
 15.20 to the chairs and ranking minority members of the house of representatives and senate  
 15.21 committees with jurisdiction over environment and natural resources by March 1, 2018,  
 15.22 on the number of permits issued, conservation impacts from the use of cast nets, and  
 15.23 recommendations for any necessary changes in statutes or rules.

15.24 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.501, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

15.25 Subd. 2. **Minnow dealers.** (a) A person may not be a minnow dealer without a  
 15.26 minnow dealer license except as provided in subdivision 3.

15.27 (b) A minnow dealer must obtain a minnow dealer's vehicle license for each motor  
 15.28 vehicle used to transport minnows. The serial number, motor vehicle license number,  
 15.29 make, and model must be on the license. The license must be conspicuously displayed  
 15.30 in the vehicle.

15.31 (c) A minnow dealer may not transport minnows out of the state without an  
 15.32 exporting minnow dealer license. A minnow dealer must obtain an exporting minnow  
 15.33 dealer's vehicle license for each motor vehicle used to transport minnows out of the state.

16.1 The serial number, motor vehicle license number, make, and model must be on the license.  
 16.2 The license must be conspicuously displayed in the vehicle.

16.3 (d) A person with a minnow dealer's license may sell minnows at one retail outlet.  
 16.4 A minnow dealer must obtain a minnow retailer license for each additional retail outlet  
 16.5 operated. A minnow dealer operating a retail outlet under a minnow dealer's license must  
 16.6 list the following information for the retail outlet: name of the business; city; state; zip  
 16.7 code; and legal description or fire number. The retail outlet name and location may be  
 16.8 changed by making application to the commissioner.

16.9 (e) A minnow dealer may designate employees as helpers who are authorized to  
 16.10 take, buy, sell, and transport minnows on behalf of the minnow dealer. The employees  
 16.11 designated as helpers must be listed on the minnow dealer's license, and a copy of the  
 16.12 license designating the employee as a helper must be in the helper's possession when  
 16.13 acting on behalf of the minnow dealer. The minnow dealer may add and delete helpers  
 16.14 listed on the dealer's license within a license year by notifying the commissioner in writing  
 16.15 of the change to the license. Employees who are acting under the direction and control of  
 16.16 the minnow dealer but who are not designated as helpers may not buy or sell minnows on  
 16.17 behalf of the minnow dealer. This paragraph does not apply to employees selling minnows  
 16.18 at the retail outlet location under paragraph (d).

16.19 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective March 1, 2016.

16.20 Sec. 32. **RULEMAKING; LIFTING SPEARING BANS AND NORTHERN PIKE**  
 16.21 **REGULATIONS.**

16.22 (a) The commissioner of natural resources shall amend Minnesota Rules, parts  
 16.23 6262.0575, subpart 9, and 6264.0400, subparts 70 and 72, to delete the language  
 16.24 prohibiting spearing.

16.25 (b) Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, section 97C.007, the commissioner of  
 16.26 natural resources shall amend Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subpart 71, to delete the  
 16.27 language prohibiting spearing and modify the northern pike protected slot to 26 to 40 inches.

16.28 (c) The commissioner may use the good cause exemption under Minnesota Statutes,  
 16.29 section 14.388, subdivision 1, clause (3), to adopt rules under this section, and Minnesota  
 16.30 Statutes, section 14.386, does not apply.

16.31 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** This section is effective July 1, 2015.

16.32 Sec. 33. **REFUNDS; YOUTH BEAR LICENSES.**

17.1 The commissioner of natural resources may issue refunds for youth bear licenses  
17.2 that were purchased between August 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014, to individuals who were  
17.3 10, 11, or 12 years old at the time of purchase.

17.4 Sec. 34. **REVISOR'S INSTRUCTION.**

17.5 The revisor of statutes shall eliminate the term "conibear" or "conibear-type"  
17.6 wherever the term appears in Minnesota Statutes and Minnesota Rules and make  
17.7 conforming grammatical changes.

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

17.9 Sec. 35. **REPEALER.**

17.10 (a) Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 97A.475, subdivision 25; and 97B.905,  
17.11 subdivision 3, are repealed.

17.12 (b) Minnesota Rules, part 6264.0400, subparts 27 and 28, are repealed.

17.13 **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Paragraph (b) is effective July 1, 2015.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 15-0286

**97A.475 LICENSE FEES.**

Subd. 25. **Muskrat farms.** The fee for a muskrat farm license is \$11.

**97B.905 FUR DEALER'S LICENSES.**

Subd. 3. **Bond required for fur buyer license applicants.** Applicants for a raw fur dealer's license must, at the time of application for the license, furnish a corporate surety bond in favor of the state for \$1,000 payable upon violation of the game and fish laws.

APPENDIX  
Repealed Minnesota Rule: 15-0286

**6264.0400 DESIGNATED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT WATERS.**

Subp. 27. **Spearing restrictions.** The following waters are closed to the taking of fish by spearing from December 1 to the last Sunday in February. A person may not have a spear in possession or under control while on or fishing in these waters during this period.

Name	Location	County
A. Bald Eagle	T.30,31, R.21,22, S.Various	Anoka, Ramsey, Washington
B. Rebecca	T.118,119, R.24, S.Various	Hennepin

**6264.0400 DESIGNATED SPECIAL MANAGEMENT WATERS.**

Subp. 28. **Seasonal spearing restrictions.** The following waters are closed to the taking of fish by spearing from December 1 to the last Sunday in February. A person may not have a spear in possession or under control while on or fishing in these waters during this period.

Name	Location	County
A. Minnetonka	T.116,117, R.22-24, S.Various	Hennepin, Carver
B. Libbs	T.117, R.22, S.17	Hennepin
C. Peavy	T.117, R.23, S.1	Hennepin
D. Forest	T.117, R.23, S.7	Hennepin
E. Tanager	T.117, R.23, S.10,11	Hennepin