

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 3160

03/16/2016 Authored by Anderson, M.,
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy
03/24/2016 Adoption of Report: Placed on the General Register
Read Second Time

A bill for an act

relating to game and fish; modifying night vision possession restrictions;
amending Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 97B.045, subdivision 3; 97B.086.

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

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.045, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Exceptions; hunting and shooting ranges.** (a) Notwithstanding provisions to the contrary under this chapter, a person may transport an unloaded, uncased firearm, excluding a pistol as defined in paragraph (b), in a motor vehicle while at a shooting range, as defined under section 87A.01, subdivision 3, where the person has received permission from the lawful owner or possessor to discharge firearms; lawfully hunting on private or public land; or travelling to or from a site the person intends to hunt lawfully that day or has hunted lawfully that day, unless:

(1) within Anoka, Hennepin, or Ramsey County;

(2) within the boundaries of a home rule charter or statutory city with a population of 2,500 or more;

(3) on school grounds; or

(4) otherwise restricted under section 97A.091, or 97B.081, ~~or 97B.086~~.

(b) For the purposes of this section, a "pistol" includes a weapon designed to be fired by the use of a single hand and with an overall length less than 26 inches, or having a barrel or barrels of a length less than 18 inches in the case of a shotgun or having a barrel of a length less than 16 inches in the case of a rifle:

(1) from which may be fired or ejected one or more solid projectiles by means of a cartridge or shell or by the action of an explosive or the igniting of flammable or explosive substances; or

(2) for which the propelling force is a spring, elastic band, carbon dioxide, air or other gas, or vapor.

Pistol does not include a device firing or ejecting a shot measuring .18 of an inch, or less, in diameter and commonly known as a "BB gun," a scuba gun, a stud gun or nail gun used in the construction industry, or children's pop guns or toys.

Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97B.086, is amended to read:

97B.086 POSSESSION OF HUNTING WITH NIGHT VISION OR THERMAL IMAGING EQUIPMENT PROHIBITED.

(a) A person may not possess night vision or thermal imaging equipment while taking protected wild animals ~~or while having in possession, either individually or as one of a group of persons, a firearm, bow, or other implement that could be used to take wild animals.~~

~~(b) This section does not apply to a firearm that is:~~

~~(1) unloaded;~~

~~(2) in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm that fully encloses the firearm by being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened without any portion of the firearm exposed; and~~

~~(3) in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle.~~

~~(c) This section does not apply to a bow that is:~~

~~(1) completely encased or unstrung; and~~

~~(2) in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle.~~

~~(d) If the motor vehicle under paragraph (b) or (c) does not have a trunk, the firearm or bow must be placed in the rearmost location of the vehicle.~~

~~(e)~~ (b) This section does not apply to night vision or thermal imaging equipment possessed by peace officers or military personnel while exercising their duties.