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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION

H. F. No. 227

01/20/2015 Authored by Sundin, Melin, Zerwas, Simonson, Anzelc and others  
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Mining and Outdoor Recreation Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to game and fish; allowing use of spear guns to take fish; amending  
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2014, sections 86B.601, subdivision 4; 97A.475, subdivisions  
1.4 6, 7; 97C.301, subdivision 3; 97C.371, subdivisions 1, 2; proposing coding for  
1.5 new law in Minnesota Statutes, chapter 97C.

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

1.7 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 86B.601, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

1.8 Subd. 4. **Night diving with spear prohibited.** A person may not scuba or skin dive  
1.9 while in possession of a spear from sunset to sunrise. For purposes of this section, a spear  
1.10 includes a spear gun as defined under section 97C.329, subdivision 1.

1.11 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.475, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

1.12 Subd. 6. **Resident fishing.** Fees for the following licenses, to be issued to residents  
1.13 only, are:

1.14 (1) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling, \$22;

1.15 (2) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling, for a combined license for a  
1.16 married couple, \$35;

1.17 (3) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by spearing from a dark house or with a  
1.18 spear gun, \$5, and the person must possess an angling license;

1.19 (4) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for a 24-hour period selected  
1.20 by the licensee, \$10;

1.21 (5) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for a consecutive 72-hour  
1.22 period selected by the licensee, \$12;

1.23 (6) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for three consecutive years,  
1.24 \$63; and

2.1 (7) for persons age 16 or over and under age 18 to take fish by angling, \$5.

2.2 Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97A.475, subdivision 7, is amended to read:

2.3 Subd. 7. **Nonresident fishing.** (a) Fees for the following licenses, to be issued  
2.4 to nonresidents, are:

2.5 (1) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling, \$40;

2.6 (2) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling limited to seven consecutive  
2.7 days selected by the licensee, \$33;

2.8 (3) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for a consecutive 72-hour  
2.9 period selected by the licensee, \$27;

2.10 (4) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for a combined license for a  
2.11 family for one or both parents and dependent children under the age of 16, \$55;

2.12 (5) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by angling for a 24-hour period selected  
2.13 by the licensee, \$12;

2.14 (6) to take fish by angling for a combined license for a married couple, limited to  
2.15 14 consecutive days selected by one of the licensees, \$43;

2.16 (7) for persons age 18 or over to take fish by spearing from a dark house or with a  
2.17 spear gun, \$10, and the person must possess an angling license; and

2.18 (8) for persons age 16 or over and under age 18 to take fish by angling, \$5.

2.19 (b) A \$5 surcharge shall be added to all nonresident fishing licenses, except licenses  
2.20 issued under paragraph (a), clauses (5) and (8). An additional commission may not be  
2.21 assessed on this surcharge.

2.22 Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.301, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

2.23 Subd. 3. **Spearing.** A person may not take fish by spearing from a dark house or by  
2.24 spear gun without a ~~dark-house~~ spearing license and an angling license.

2.25 Sec. 5. [97C.329] SPEAR GUNS.

2.26 Subdivision 1. **Definition.** For the purposes of this section, "spear gun" means any  
2.27 device used to propel a spear underwater by any means other than manual.

2.28 Subd. 2. **Spear guns.** A person may use a spear gun to take fish provided:

2.29 (1) the person has a valid angling and spearing license;

2.30 (2) the person is completely submerged in water and in compliance with section  
2.31 86B.601;

2.32 (3) the person complies with all applicable game and fish laws and rules adopted  
2.33 by the commissioner; and

3.1 (4) there is an open season to take the fish.

3.2 Subd. 3. **Nighttime restrictions.** A person may not take fish by spear gun between  
3.3 sunset and sunrise.

3.4 Subd. 4. **Possession.** A person may possess a spear gun for the purposes of spear  
3.5 gun fishing between sunrise and sunset on or near waters where fish may be lawfully  
3.6 taken by spear gun.

3.7 Subd. 5. **Rules.** The commissioner may adopt rules to regulate the use of spear  
3.8 guns to take fish.

3.9 Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.371, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

3.10 Subdivision 1. **Species allowed.** Except as provided under section 97C.329, only  
3.11 rough fish, catfish, lake whitefish, and northern pike may be taken by spearing.

3.12 Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2014, section 97C.371, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

3.13 Subd. 2. **Dark houses required for certain species.** Catfish, lake whitefish, and  
3.14 northern pike may be speared only from dark houses and as provided under section  
3.15 97C.329.