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State of Minnesota  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

EIGHTY-EIGHTH SESSION

H. F. No. **585**

02/14/2013 Authored by Dill

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to game and fish; requiring ground blinds to display blaze orange during  
1.3 the firearms deer season; amending Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97B.071.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2012, section 97B.071, is amended to read:

1.6 **97B.071 BLAZE ORANGE REQUIREMENTS.**

1.7 Subdivision 1. Clothing requirements. (a) Except as provided in rules adopted  
1.8 under paragraph (c), a person may not hunt or trap during the open season where deer may  
1.9 be taken by firearms under applicable laws and ordinances, unless the visible portion of  
1.10 the person's cap and outer clothing above the waist, excluding sleeves and gloves, is blaze  
1.11 orange. Blaze orange includes a camouflage pattern of at least 50 percent blaze orange  
1.12 within each foot square. This section does not apply to migratory waterfowl hunters on  
1.13 waters of this state or in a stationary shooting location or to trappers on waters of this state.

1.14 (b) Except as provided in rules adopted under paragraph (c), and in addition to  
1.15 the requirement in paragraph (a), a person may not take small game other than turkey,  
1.16 migratory birds, raccoons, and predators, except while trapping, unless a visible portion of  
1.17 at least one article of the person's clothing above the waist is blaze orange. This paragraph  
1.18 does not apply to a person when in a stationary location while hunting deer by archery  
1.19 or when hunting small game by falconry.

1.20 (c) The commissioner may, by rule, prescribe an alternative color in cases where  
1.21 paragraph (a) or (b) would violate the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, Public  
1.22 Law 103-141.

1.23 (d) A violation of paragraph (b) shall not result in a penalty, but is punishable only  
1.24 by a safety warning.

2.1            Subd. 2. **Ground blinds.** A person may not hunt deer from a ground blind during  
2.2 the open season where deer may be taken by firearms unless the outside of the blind  
2.3 displays a minimum of 144 square inches of blaze orange material that is visible from  
2.4 all directions around the blind.