

S.F. No. 2767 (1st Engrossment) – DNR Policy Changes

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Section 1 [Permitting Efficiency Report Due Date] changes from August 1 to October 1 the date by which the Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) annual permitting efficiency report must be submitted to the legislature and to the governor.

Section 2 [Issuance of Snowmobile Registration Decal] requires a snowmobile registration number to be printed on a registration decal issued at the time of registration and requires the decal to be permanently affixed to the snowmobile in a clearly visible manner.

Section 3 [Display of Snowmobile Registration Decal] requires a snowmobile registration decal to be affixed to a particular part of the snowmobile, depending on when the snowmobile was made.

Section 4 [Snowmobile Manufacturer Requirements] makes statutory a requirement that is currently in rules (6100.5700, subp. 4) for snowmobile manufacturers to provide an area of certain dimensions on a snowmobile's cowling for placement of a snowmobile registration decal.

Section 5 [Conforming Changes] narrows the DNR's rulemaking authority to reflect changes made in another section of the bill.

Section 6 [Luce Line Trail Connection] amends the statutory definition of the Luce Line Trail to include a connection to Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.

Section 7 [Reservation Policy Authority] provides the DNR authority to develop reservation policies for lodging facilities, day-use facilities, tours, educational programs, seminars, events, and rentals.

Section 8 [Deadline for Timber Payments] replaces the current requirement that payment for timber cut from state lands be paid within 30 days of the statement with a requirement that payment be postmarked by that date.

Section 9 [Definition of Unloaded] modernizes the definition of an unloaded firearm to account for advances in firearm technology.

Section 10 [Walk-In Access Program Expansion] expands the walk-in access program to include birdwatching, nature photography, and similar compatible uses.

Section 11 [WMA Access by Person's with Disabilities] modernizes the statute that authorizes the DNR to permit people with disabilities to use motor vehicles in wildlife management areas. Repeals the requirement that the access be for hunting purposes.

Section 12 [Deer Stands in Certain WMAs Sunset Repeal] repeals a sunset on authority to leave deer stands overnight in certain wildlife management areas.

Section 13 [Establishing Residency with Driver's License Application] allows a person to use a driver's license application receipt to establish residency for resident game and fish license purposes if the receipt is at least 60 days old.

Section 14 [Permissible Firearms; Big Game and Wolves] modernizes the statute that governs which firearms may be used to take big game and wolves to reflect advances in firearm technology.

Section 15 [Abolition of Shotgun Zone] makes a change to reflect the repeal of the shotgun zone for taking deer.

Section 16 [Blaze Orange/Pink Required for Persons in Ground Blinds] requires a person in a fabric or synthetic ground blind on public land during the open season where deer may be taken by firearms to have a blaze orange or blaze pink on top of the blind and on each side of the blind.

Section 17 [Deer and Elk Causing Damage] authorizes nonlethal scaring, hazing, chasing, or harassing of deer or elk that are causing damage to agricultural crops. Requires deaths of deer or elk from these activities to be reported.

Section 18 [Two-Line Angling] authorizes anglers to use two lines in the Minnesota River downstream of the Granite Falls dam and in the Mississippi River downstream of St. Anthony Falls.

Section 19 [Required Rulemaking] requires the DNR to make various rules changes to conform the rules to statutory changes made elsewhere in the bill. Authorizes the agency to use exempt rulemaking for this purpose.

Section 20 [Registration Decal Format Transition] facilitates the transition from older format snowmobile registration decals to those required under the changes made in the bill.

Section 21 [Repealer] repeals the statute creating the shotgun zone and repeals various rules to conform with changes made elsewhere in the bill.