

S.F. No. 2570 – Various Natural Resources Policy Modifications

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Section 1 [Investment of Financial Assurance Money Under Permit to Mine] allows the State Board of Investment to invest money collected as part of the financial assurance provided under a permit to mine and appropriates that money to the commissioner of natural resources for financial assurance purposes.

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 Department of Natural Resource's (DNR) rulemaking authority to reflect changes made in another section of the bill.

Section 6 [Minnesota Naturalist Corps Program] amends the statute that directs the DNR to develop a Minnesota Naturalist Corps program to support state parks. This section requires that the agency not just develop the program but that they implement it and that it supports not just state parks but also state trails.

Section 7 [Minnesota Naturalist Corps Modifications] amends the qualifications to enroll in the Minnesota Naturalist Corps by repealing a requirement that a person be a permanent resident of the state and have completed at least one year of postsecondary education.

Section 8 [Luce Line Trail Connection] amends the statutory definition of the Luce Line Trail to include a connection to Greenleaf Lake State Recreation Area.

Section 9 [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 10 [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 11 [Wanton Waste] exempts common carp from the prohibition on wantonly wasting or destroying a usable part of a protected wild animal.

Section 12 [Walk-In Access Program Expansion] expands the walk-in access program to include birdwatching, nature photography, and similar compatible uses.

Section 13 [WMA Access by Persons 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 14 [Conforming Change] makes a conforming change related to section 15.

Section 15 [DNR Regulation of Taking of Certain Wild Animals] directs the commissioner of natural resources to prescribe conditions and issue permits to take wild animals during activities covered under a federal incidental take permit issued under section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act.

Section 16 [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 17 [Blaze Orange/Pink Required for Persons in Ground Blinds] requires a person in a fabric or synthetic ground blind on public land to have a blaze orange or blaze pink on top of the blind or on each side of the blind.

Sections 18 and 19 [Technical Corrections] make technical corrections to deer hunting statutes.

Section 20 [Application of Shotgun Zone Restrictions] clarifies that shotgun zone limitations apply to any firearms season and not just regular firearms season.

Section 21 [Elk Management] repeals restrictions that prohibit DNR from managing elk in a manner that increases the size of the herd in Kittson, Roseau, Marshall, or Beltrami Counties and repeals a related public meeting requirement.

Section 22 [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 23 [Methods for Removing Rough Fish and Catfish] repeals language authorizing the DNR to remove lake whitefish with seines, nets, and other devices, and also repeals language authorizing the DNR to remove catfish with seines, nets, and other devices on the Minnesota-Wisconsin boundary waters.

Section 24 [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 25 [Technical Correction] makes a technical correction to correct a date range.

Section 26 [Prohibition on Felt-Soled Waders] prohibits the use of felt-soled waders in waters of this state.

Section 27 [Spearing of Cisco Authorized] authorizes cisco (tulibee) to be taken by spearing.

Section 28 [Spearing of Cisco from Dark Houses] provides that cisco (tulibee) may only be speared from dark houses.

Sections 29 through 32 [Technical Corrections] make a technical correction to correct a date range.

Section 33 [Tribal Notification of Permit Applications] requires applicants for DNR permits to provide copies of the application and related documentation to the Tribal chair of a reservation or Tribal community within which the proposed action is proposed to be undertaken.

Section 34 [Tribal Consultation on Permit Applications] allows an Indian Tribe to submit recommendations to the DNR with respect to permit applications that affect a reservation or Tribal community and to request consultation on the permit application.

Section 35 [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 36 [Registration Decal Format Transition] facilitates the transition from older format snowmobile registration decals to those required under the changes made in the bill.

Section 37 [Repealer] repeals rules to conform with changes related to snowmobile registration made elsewhere in the bill.

This section also repeals a statute that requires DNR to remove and dispose of dead fish that accumulate in or upon the shores of public waters in quantities that are a public nuisance or are detrimental to game fish.