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S.F. No. 3905 – Natural Resource Electronic Licensing System Establishment

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Background: In 2023, the legislature enacted a requirement that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) begin accepting electronic game and fish licenses beginning March 1, 2026.¹ The DNR has since announced that it plans to launch a new electronic license system (ELS) in the spring of 2025. SF 3905 makes various statutory changes to facilitate the implementation of the new electronic licensure system.

Section 1 [Modification of Cross Reference] makes a technical conforming change to a statute to reflect a change made by another section.

Section 2 [Repeal of Temporary Identification Number Assignment] repeals language that authorized the DNR to assign a temporary identification number to the purchaser of a hunting or fishing license to reflect the fact that there will no longer be a delay between purchasing a license and receiving the license.

Section 3 [Nomenclature Modernization] changes a reference in current statute to snowmobile trail “sticker” to snowmobile trail “pass.”

Section 4 [Repeal of Wild Rice License Oath Requirement] repeals a requirement that applicants for a wild rice dealer’s license make a written oath.

Sections 5 & 6 [Modification of Cross References] make technical conforming changes to reflect a change made by another section.

Section 7 [Vehicle State Trail Pass Changes] changes a reference in current statute to a vehicle state trail pass “sticker” to vehicle state trail pass. Requires the pass to be “available to be viewed” as opposed to being “viewable.”

¹ [Laws 2023, Chapter 60, Article 4, Section 48.](#)

Section 8 [Nomenclature Modernization] repeals references to “stickers” in connection with state trail passes and nontrail use registrations.

Section 9 [Modification of Cross Reference] makes a technical conforming change to a statute to reflect a change made by another section.

Section 10 [Snowmobile State Trail Pass Changes] replaces references to “stickers” with references to “passes.” Replaces a requirement that a sticker be affixed to the snowmobile with a requirement that a pass be available for inspection.

Section 11 & 12 [Nomenclature Modernization] replace references to “stickers” with references to “passes” in connection with snowmobile state trail passes.

Section 13 [Modification of Cross Reference] makes a technical conforming change to a statute to reflect a change made by another section.

Sections 14 through 17 [Repeal of Requirement to Sign Ski Pass] repeal language requiring that a cross-country ski pass be signed.

Section 18 [Modification of Cross Reference] makes a technical conforming change to a statute to reflect a change made by another section.

Section 19 [Repeal of Tagging Requirement for Bonus Permits] removes the requirement to tag from the definition of bonus permit.

Section 20 [Definition of Validation] defines the term “validation,” which is used in several sections that follow.

Section 21 [Immunity for Damage to Electronic Devices] provides immunity to conservation officers for damage to electronic devices that occurs during inspection of electronic licenses so long as the officer is exercising due care.

Section 22 [Invalidation of License] allows invalidation of a license when revoked and seized.

Section 23 [Technical Changes] makes technical changes by repealing language that is no longer needed.

Section 24 [Repeal of Requirement to Take Oath to Obtain Duplicate Licenses] repeals the requirement to take an oath attesting to the facts of the loss of the original license before obtaining a duplicate license.

Sections 25 & 26 [Replacement License Changes] repeal requirements to submit the original license before obtaining a replacement license for various types of game. Modifies tagging language.

Section 27 [Invalidation and Reinstatement of Electronic Licenses] allows invalidation and reinstatement of electronic licenses by conservation officers in certain circumstances.

Section 28 [Temporary Exemption from Licensure Requirement] authorizes DNR to temporarily exempt residents and nonresidents from the requirement to possess a game or fish license in the event of a disruption to the ELS.

Section 29 through 34 [Repeal of Tagging Language] repeal language related to turkey tags and stamps as these will no longer be required under the new ELS.

Section 35 [Repeal of Requirement That Application Be in Writing] repeals a requirement that applications for licenses be in writing.

Section 36 [Repeal of One Day Angling Books] repeals statutory authority for DNR to issue one day angling license books and one day angling licenses.

Section 37 [Big Game Validation Requirements] replaces tagging requirement language for transporting big game with language requiring a validation for the appropriate type of animal instead.

Section 38 through 40 [Replacement of Tagging with Validation Requirements] replaces language requiring tagging with language requiring validation.

Section 41 [Replacement of Tagging with Endorsement Requirements] replaces tagging requirements with requirements to obtain an endorsement or validation, depending on the species of fish.

Section 42 [Repeal of Tagging Language] repeals a reference to now obsolete tagging requirements.

Section 43 [Bear Applications Need Not Be Made on a Form] repeals requirement for bear licenses applications to be made on a form.

Sections 44 through 47 [Repeal of Tagging Language] repeal now obsolete references to tagging and replace it with validation or endorsement language, where applicable.

Section 48 [Repeal of Signature Requirement] repeals the requirement that nonresident licenses be signed.

Section 49 [Repeal of Tagging Requirement for Shelters] repeals requirement that shelters on ice be physically tagged.

Section 50 [Rulemaking] authorizes the DNR to use the good cause rulemaking exemption to adopt changes to rules in conformance with the bill.

Section 51 [Repealer] repeals the statutory definition of “license identification number” and the statute requiring the sale of one-day paper fishing licenses.

Section 52 [Effective Date] makes the bill effective upon full implementation of the new ELS. Requires the DNR to notify the Revisor of Statutes when this has occurred.