

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION

S.F. No. 3905

(SENATE AUTHORS: HAWJ and Wesenberg)

DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
02/19/2024	11644	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy
03/07/2024	12018	Comm report: To pass and re-referred to State and Local Government and Veterans
03/11/2024	12143	Author added Wesenberg

1.1

A bill for an act

1.2

relating to natural resources; providing for new electronic license system; making

1.3

conforming changes; amending Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 14.386; 84.027,

1.4

subdivision 15; 84.0874; 84.152, subdivision 3; 84.788, subdivision 11; 84.798,

1.5

subdivision 10; 84.8035, subdivision 1; 84.82, subdivisions 2a, 11; 84.8205; 84.83,

1.6

subdivision 2; 84.922, subdivision 12; 85.41, subdivisions 1, 4; 85.45, subdivision

1.7

1; 85.46, subdivision 3; 86B.415, subdivision 11; 97A.015, subdivision 3a, by

1.8

adding a subdivision; 97A.215, by adding a subdivision; 97A.255, subdivision 5;

1.9

97A.405, subdivisions 3, 4, 4a; 97A.420, as amended; 97A.445, by adding a

1.10

subdivision; 97A.473, subdivisions 1, 3, 4, 5, 5a; 97A.474, subdivision 3; 97A.481;

1.11

97A.485, subdivision 6; 97A.535, subdivisions 1, 2, 2a, 4; 97A.551, subdivision

1.12

6; 97B.303; 97B.401; 97B.603; 97B.716, subdivision 2; 97B.721; 97C.087;

1.13

97C.301, subdivision 2a; 97C.355, subdivision 2; Minnesota Statutes 2023

1.14

Supplement, sections 84.83, subdivision 3; 97A.405, subdivision 2; repealing

1.15

Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 97A.015, subdivision 27a; 97A.485, subdivision

1.16

13.

1.17

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

1.18

Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 14.386, is amended to read:

1.19

14.386 PROCEDURE FOR ADOPTING EXEMPT RULES; DURATION.

1.20

(a) A rule adopted, amended, or repealed by an agency, under a statute enacted after

1.21

January 1, 1997, authorizing or requiring rules to be adopted but excluded from the

1.22

rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 or from the definition of a rule, has the force and effect

1.23

of law only if:

1.24

(1) the revisor of statutes approves the form of the rule by certificate;

1.25

(2) the person authorized to adopt the rule on behalf of the agency signs an order adopting

1.26

the rule;

(3) the Office of Administrative Hearings approves the rule as to its legality within 14 days after the agency submits it for approval and files four paper copies or an electronic copy of the adopted rule with the revisor's certificate in the Office of the Secretary of State; and

(4) a copy is published by the agency in the State Register.

The secretary of state shall forward one copy of the rule to the governor.

A statute enacted after January 1, 1997, authorizing or requiring rules to be adopted but excluded from the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14 or from the definition of a rule does not excuse compliance with this section unless it makes specific reference to this section.

(b) A rule adopted under this section is effective for a period of two years from the date of publication of the rule in the State Register. The authority for the rule expires at the end of this two-year period.

(c) The chief administrative law judge shall adopt rules relating to the rule approval duties imposed by this section and section 14.388, including rules establishing standards for review.

(d) This section does not apply to:

(1) any group or rule listed in section 14.03, subdivisions 1 and 3, except as otherwise provided by law;

(2) game and fish rules of the commissioner of natural resources adopted under section 84.027, subdivision 13, or sections 97A.0451 to 97A.0459;

(3) experimental and special management waters designated by the commissioner of natural resources under sections 97C.001 and 97C.005;

(4) game refuges designated by the commissioner of natural resources under section 97A.085; or

(5) transaction fees established by the commissioner of natural resources for electronic or telephone sales of licenses, stamps, permits, registrations, or transfers under section 84.027, subdivision 15, paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2).

(e) If a statute provides that a rule is exempt from chapter 14, and section 14.386 does not apply to the rule, the rule has the force of law unless the context of the statute delegating the rulemaking authority makes clear that the rule does not have force of law.

3.1 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.027, subdivision 15, is amended to read:

3.2 Subd. 15. **Electronic transactions.** (a) The commissioner may receive an application
3.3 for, sell, and issue any license, stamp, permit, pass, sticker, gift card, safety training
3.4 certification, registration, or transfer under the jurisdiction of the commissioner by electronic
3.5 means, including by telephone. Notwithstanding section 97A.472, electronic and telephone
3.6 transactions may be made outside of the state. The commissioner may:

3.7 (1) provide for the electronic transfer of funds generated by electronic transactions,
3.8 including by telephone;

3.9 ~~(2) assign an identification number to an applicant who purchases a hunting or fishing~~
3.10 ~~license or recreational vehicle registration by electronic means, to serve as temporary~~
3.11 ~~authorization to engage in the activity requiring a license or registration until the license or~~
3.12 ~~registration is received or expires;~~

3.13 ~~(3)~~ (2) charge and permit agents to charge a fee of individuals who make electronic
3.14 transactions and transactions by telephone or Internet, including issuing fees and an additional
3.15 transaction fee not to exceed \$3.50;

3.16 ~~(4)~~ (3) charge and permit agents to charge a convenience fee not to exceed three percent
3.17 of the cost of the license to individuals who use electronic bank cards for payment. An
3.18 electronic licensing system agent charging a fee of individuals making an electronic bank
3.19 card transaction in person must post a sign informing individuals of the fee. The sign must
3.20 be near the point of payment, clearly visible, include the amount of the fee, and state:
3.21 "License agents are allowed by state law to charge a fee not to exceed three percent of the
3.22 cost of state licenses to persons who use electronic bank cards for payment. The fee is not
3.23 required by state law.";

3.24 ~~(5)~~ (4) establish, by written order, an electronic licensing system commission to be paid
3.25 by revenues generated from all sales made through the electronic licensing system. The
3.26 commissioner shall establish the commission in a manner that neither significantly
3.27 overrecovers nor underrecovers costs involved in providing the electronic licensing system;
3.28 and

3.29 ~~(6)~~ (5) adopt rules to administer the provisions of this subdivision.

3.30 (b) The fees established under paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (3) ~~and (4)~~, and the
3.31 commission established under paragraph (a), clause ~~(5)~~ (4), are not subject to the rulemaking
3.32 procedures of chapter 14 and section 14.386 does not apply.

(c) Money received from fees and commissions collected under this subdivision, including interest earned, is annually appropriated from the game and fish fund and the natural resources fund to the commissioner for the cost of electronic licensing.

(d) Game and fish licenses under chapters 97A, 97B, and 97C shall be available by electronic transaction, regardless of whether all or any part of the biennial appropriation law for the department has been enacted. If, by July 1 of an odd-numbered year, legislation has not been enacted to appropriate money to the commissioner of management and budget for central accounting, procurement, payroll, and human resources functions, amounts necessary to operate those functions for the purpose of this paragraph are appropriated from the general fund to the commissioner of management and budget. As necessary, the commissioner may transfer a portion of this appropriation to other state agencies to support carrying out these functions. Any subsequent appropriation to the commissioner of management and budget for a biennium in which this section is applicable supersedes and replaces the funding authorized in this paragraph.

Sec. 3. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.0874, is amended to read:

84.0874 ELECTRONIC LICENSING SYSTEM DATA.

(a) The following data created, collected, stored, or maintained by the department for purposes of obtaining a noncommercial game and fish license, cross-country-ski pass, horse pass, or snowmobile trail ~~sticker~~ pass; registering a recreational motor vehicle; or any other electronic licensing transaction are private data on individuals as defined in section 13.02, subdivision 12: name, addresses, driver's license number, and date of birth. The data may be disclosed for law enforcement purposes. The data, other than the driver's license number, may be disclosed to a government entity and for natural resources management purposes, including recruitment, retention, and training certification and verification.

(b) Private data on individuals under paragraph (a) may be disclosed as follows:

(1) for use by any government agency, including a court or law enforcement agency, in carrying out its functions, or any private person or entity acting on behalf of a federal, state, or local agency in carrying out its functions;

(2) for use in connection with matters of vehicle or operator safety and theft, emissions, product alterations, recalls or advisories, and performance monitoring;

(3) for use in the normal course of business by a legitimate business or its agents, employees, or contractors, in order to verify the accuracy of personal information submitted by an individual. If the information as submitted is not correct or is no longer correct, correct

information may be obtained only for the purpose of preventing fraud by, pursuing legal remedies against, or recovering on a debt or security interest against the individual. If the person requesting access is acting as the agent of a lienholder, the requester must submit proof of a contract with the lienholder;

(4) for use in connection with any civil, criminal, administrative, or arbitration proceedings in any federal, state, or local court or agency or before any self-regulatory body, including service of process, investigation in anticipation of litigation, and the execution or enforcement of judgments and orders, or pursuant to an order of a federal, state, or local court, provided that the requester provides a copy of the court order;

(5) for use by any insurer or insurance support organization, or by a self-insured entity, or its agents, employees, or contractors, in connection with claims investigation activities or antifraud activities. If the person requesting access is an agent of an insurance company, the requester must provide the insurance company's name;

(6) for use in providing notice to the owners of towed or impounded recreational vehicles or watercraft. The person requesting access must provide the name, address, and telephone number of the entity that requested that the recreational vehicle or watercraft be towed;

(7) for use by any licensed private investigative agency or licensed security service for any purpose permitted under this section, provided that the person provides a copy of a valid license; or

(8) where the use is related to the physical safety or security of operators, vehicles, pedestrians, or property.

The commissioner must not disclose data under this paragraph if the commissioner concludes that the requester is likely to use the data for an improper purpose or other purpose not authorized by this paragraph.

Sec. 4. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.152, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Application.** (a) ~~An application for a wild rice dealer's license must be made under a written oath.~~ The ~~form of~~ application for a wild rice dealer's license application must include:

(1) the amount of wild rice, whether raw or processed, bought or sold by the applicant during the preceding calendar year;

(2) the amount of wild rice the applicant estimates will be bought or sold under the license; and

(3) other pertinent information required by the commissioner.

(b) The license fee must be paid in advance, based on the applicant's estimate. A license may not be issued for a fee based on a lesser amount of wild rice than was bought or sold by the applicant during the preceding calendar year.

Sec. 5. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.788, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

Subd. 11. **Refunds.** The commissioner may issue a refund on a registration, not including any issuing fees paid under subdivision 3, paragraph (e), or section 84.027, subdivision 15, paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), if the refund request is received within 12 months of the original registration and:

(1) the off-highway motorcycle was registered incorrectly by the commissioner or the deputy registrar; or

(2) the off-highway motorcycle was registered twice, once by the dealer and once by the customer.

Sec. 6. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.798, subdivision 10, is amended to read:

Subd. 10. **Refunds.** The commissioner may issue a refund on a registration, not including any issuing fees paid under subdivision 3, paragraph (b), or section 84.027, subdivision 15, paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), if the refund request is received within 60 days of the original registration, the registration is not used or transferred, and:

(1) the off-road vehicle was registered incorrectly; or

(2) the off-road vehicle was registered twice, once by the dealer and once by the customer.

Sec. 7. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.8035, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. **Pass required; fee.** (a) Except as provided under paragraph (c), a person may not operate an off-road vehicle on a state or grant-in-aid off-road vehicle trail or use area unless the vehicle displays an off-road vehicle state trail pass ~~sticker~~ issued according to this section. The pass must be ~~viewable~~ available to be viewed by a peace officer, a conservation officer, or an employee designated under section 84.0835.

(b) The commissioner of natural resources shall issue a pass upon application and payment of the fee. Fees collected under this section, except for the issuing fee for licensing agents, shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited to the off-road vehicle account in the natural resources fund and, except for the electronic licensing system commission established by the commissioner under section 84.027, subdivision 15, must be used for grants-in-aid

7.1 to counties and municipalities for off-road vehicle organizations to construct and maintain
7.2 off-road vehicle trails and use areas.

7.3 (c) An off-road vehicle state trail pass is not required for:

7.4 (1) an off-road vehicle that is owned and used by the United States, another state, or a
7.5 political subdivision thereof that is exempt from registration under section 84.798, subdivision
7.6 2;

7.7 (2) a person operating an off-road vehicle only on the portion of a trail that is owned by
7.8 the person or the person's spouse, child, or parent; or

7.9 (3) a person operating an off-road vehicle that is registered according to section 84.798.

7.10 (d) The fee for an annual nonresident off-road vehicle state trail pass is \$20. The
7.11 nonresident pass is valid from January 1 through December 31. The fee for a nonresident
7.12 three-year pass is \$30.

7.13 (e) The fee for a resident off-road vehicle state trail pass is \$20. The resident pass is
7.14 valid for 30 consecutive days after the date of issuance.

7.15 Sec. 8. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.82, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

7.16 Subd. 2a. **Nontrail use registration.** A snowmobile may be registered for nontrail use.
7.17 A snowmobile registered under this subdivision may not be operated on a state or grant-in-aid
7.18 snowmobile trail. The fee for a nontrail use registration of a snowmobile with an engine
7.19 displacement that is greater than 125 cubic centimeters is \$45 for three years. A nontrail
7.20 use registration is not transferable. In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, the
7.21 penalty for violation of this subdivision is immediate revocation of the nontrail use
7.22 registration. The commissioner shall ensure that the registration ~~sticker~~ provided for limited
7.23 nontrail use is of a different color and is distinguishable from other snowmobile registration
7.24 ~~and state trail stickers~~ provided.

7.25 Sec. 9. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.82, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

7.26 Subd. 11. **Refunds.** The commissioner may issue a refund on a registration, not including
7.27 any issuing fees paid under subdivision 2, paragraph (e), or section 84.027, subdivision 15,
7.28 paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), if the refund request is received within 60 days of the original
7.29 registration, the registration is not used or transferred, and:

7.30 (1) the snowmobile was registered incorrectly; or

7.31 (2) the snowmobile was registered twice, once by the dealer and once by the customer.

8.1 Sec. 10. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.8205, is amended to read:

8.2 **84.8205 SNOWMOBILE STATE TRAIL ~~STICKER~~ PASS.**

8.3 Subdivision 1. ~~Sticker Pass required; fee.~~ (a) A snowmobile that is not registered in
8.4 the state under section 84.82, subdivision 3, paragraph (a), or that is registered by a
8.5 manufacturer or dealer under section 84.82, subdivision 3, paragraph (b) or (c), may not be
8.6 operated on a state or grant-in-aid snowmobile trail unless a snowmobile state trail ~~sticker~~
8.7 is affixed to the snowmobile pass is available for inspection by a peace officer, a conservation
8.8 officer, or an employee designated under section 84.0835.

8.9 (b) The commissioner of natural resources shall issue a ~~sticker pass~~ upon application
8.10 and payment of a fee. The fee is:

8.11 (1) \$50 for a one-year snowmobile state trail ~~sticker pass~~ purchased by an individual;
8.12 and

8.13 (2) \$15 for a one-year snowmobile state trail ~~sticker pass~~ purchased by a dealer or
8.14 manufacturer.

8.15 (c) In addition to other penalties prescribed by law, an individual in violation of this
8.16 subdivision must purchase an annual state trail ~~sticker pass~~ for a fee of \$70. The ~~sticker~~
8.17 pass is valid from November 1 through June 30. Fees collected under this section, except
8.18 for the issuing fee for licensing agents, shall be deposited in the state treasury and credited
8.19 to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund and, except
8.20 for the electronic licensing system commission established by the commissioner under
8.21 section 84.027, subdivision 15, must be used for grants-in-aid, trail maintenance, grooming,
8.22 and easement acquisition.

8.23 (d) A state trail ~~sticker pass~~ is not required under this section for:

8.24 (1) a snowmobile that is owned and used by the United States, an Indian tribal
8.25 government, another state, or a political subdivision thereof that is exempt from registration
8.26 under section 84.82, subdivision 6;

8.27 (2) a collector snowmobile that is operated as provided in a special permit issued for the
8.28 collector snowmobile under section 84.82, subdivision 7a;

8.29 (3) a person operating a snowmobile only on the portion of a trail that is owned by the
8.30 person or the person's spouse, child, or parent; or

8.31 (4) a snowmobile while being used to groom a state or grant-in-aid trail.

9.1 ~~Subd. 2. **Placement of sticker.** The state trail sticker shall be permanently affixed to~~
9.2 ~~either:~~

9.3 ~~(1) the forward half of the snowmobile directly above or below the headlight of the~~
9.4 ~~snowmobile;~~

9.5 ~~(2) above the expiration year on the top portion of the snowmobile registration validation~~
9.6 ~~decal; or~~

9.7 ~~(3) the lower right corner of a registration plate issued to a dealer or manufacturer under~~
9.8 ~~section 84.82, subdivision 3.~~

9.9 Subd. 3. **License agents.** The commissioner may appoint agents to issue and sell state
9.10 trail ~~stickers~~ passes. The commissioner may revoke the appointment of an agent at any time.
9.11 The commissioner may adopt additional rules as provided in section 97A.485, subdivision
9.12 11. An agent shall observe all rules adopted by the commissioner for accounting and handling
9.13 of ~~stickers~~ passes pursuant to section 97A.485, subdivision 11. An agent shall promptly
9.14 deposit and remit all money received from the sale of the ~~stickers~~ passes, exclusive of the
9.15 issuing fee, to the commissioner.

9.16 Subd. 4. **Issuing ~~stickers~~ passes.** The commissioner and agents shall issue and sell
9.17 snowmobile state trail ~~stickers~~ passes.

9.18 Subd. 5. **Agent's fee.** In addition to the fee for a ~~sticker~~ pass, an issuing fee of \$1 per
9.19 ~~sticker~~ pass shall be charged. The issuing fee may be retained by the seller of the ~~sticker~~
9.20 pass. Issuing fees for ~~stickers~~ passes issued by the commissioner shall be deposited in the
9.21 snowmobile trails and enforcement account in the natural resources fund and retained for
9.22 the operation of the electronic licensing system.

9.23 Subd. 6. **Duplicate state trail ~~stickers~~ passes.** The commissioner and agents shall issue
9.24 a duplicate ~~sticker~~ pass to persons whose ~~sticker~~ pass is lost or destroyed using the process
9.25 established under section 97A.405, subdivision 3, and rules promulgated thereunder. The
9.26 fee for a duplicate state trail ~~sticker~~ pass is \$2, with an issuing fee of 50 cents.

9.27 Sec. 11. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.83, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

9.28 Subd. 2. **Money deposited in account.** Fees from the registration of snowmobiles and
9.29 from the issuance of snowmobile state trail ~~stickers~~ passes and the unrefunded gasoline tax
9.30 attributable to snowmobile use pursuant to section 296A.18 shall be deposited in the state
9.31 treasury and credited to the snowmobile trails and enforcement account.

Sec. 12. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 84.83, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Purposes; allocation.** (a) The money deposited in the account and interest earned on that money may be expended only as appropriated by law for the following purposes:

(1) for a grant-in-aid program to counties and municipalities for construction and maintenance of snowmobile trails that are determined by the commissioner to be part of the state's grant-in-aid system, including maintenance of trails on lands and waters of Voyageurs National Park; on Lake of the Woods; on Rainy Lake; on the following lakes in St. Louis County: Burntside, Crane, Little Long, Mud, Pelican, Shagawa, and Vermilion; and on the following lakes in Cook County: Devil Track and Hungry Jack. The commissioner may establish a performance-based funding formula for annual grants-in-aid. The procedures and criteria for grants-in-aid are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14, and section 14.386 does not apply. In administering the performance-based grants-in-aid, the commissioner must:

(i) determine annual grant amounts based on a funding formula that includes consideration of historical costs, snowfall, use, and tourism;

(ii) make grant payments based on:

(A) successful completion of performance benchmarks;

(B) reimbursement of eligible expenditures; or

(C) a combination of subitems (A) and (B); and

(iii) assess penalties to nonperforming grant-in-aid recipients, which may include withholding grant payments or making the grantee or trail system ineligible for future grant-in-aid funding;

(2) to acquire, develop, and maintain state recreational snowmobile trails;

(3) for snowmobile safety programs; and

(4) to administer and enforce sections 84.81 to 84.9011 and appropriated grants to local law enforcement agencies.

(b) No less than 60 percent of revenue collected from snowmobile registration and snowmobile state trail ~~sticker~~ pass fees must be expended for grants-in-aid to develop, maintain, and groom trails and acquire easements.

11.1 Sec. 13. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 84.922, subdivision 12, is amended to read:

11.2 Subd. 12. **Refunds.** The commissioner may issue a refund on a registration, not including
11.3 any issuing fees paid under subdivision 2, paragraph (e), or section 84.027, subdivision 15,
11.4 paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), if the refund request is received within 60 days of the original
11.5 registration, the registration is not used or transferred, and:

11.6 (1) the vehicle was registered incorrectly; or

11.7 (2) the vehicle was registered twice, once by the dealer and once by the customer.

11.8 Sec. 14. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 85.41, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

11.9 Subdivision 1. **Pass in possession.** While skiing on cross-country-ski trails, a person
11.10 age 16 or over shall carry in immediate possession a valid, ~~signed~~ cross-country-ski pass.
11.11 A landowner who grants an easement for a grant-in-aid ski trail is not required to have a
11.12 pass when skiing on the landowner's property.

11.13 Sec. 15. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 85.41, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

11.14 Subd. 4. **Issuance.** The commissioner and agents shall issue and sell cross-country-ski
11.15 passes. The pass shall be with the skier and available for inspection by any peace or
11.16 conservation officer. The pass shall include the applicant's ~~signature and other~~ information
11.17 deemed necessary by the commissioner.

11.18 Sec. 16. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 85.45, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

11.19 Subdivision 1. **Skiing without pass.** No person may ski on a cross-country-ski trail
11.20 without a valid, ~~signed~~ cross-country-ski pass. Any person who violates this subdivision is
11.21 guilty of a petty misdemeanor.

11.22 Sec. 17. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 85.46, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

11.23 Subd. 3. **Issuance.** The commissioner of natural resources and agents shall issue and
11.24 sell horse passes. The pass shall include the applicant's ~~signature and other~~ information
11.25 deemed necessary by the commissioner. To be valid, a daily or annual pass must be ~~signed~~
11.26 by issued to the person riding, leading, or driving the horse, and a commercial annual pass
11.27 must be ~~signed by~~ issued to the owner of the commercial riding facility.

12.1 Sec. 18. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 86B.415, subdivision 11, is amended to read:

12.2 Subd. 11. **Refunds.** The commissioner may issue a refund on a license or title, not
12.3 including any issuing fees paid under subdivision 8 or section 84.027, subdivision 15,
12.4 paragraph (a), clause ~~(3)~~ (2), or 86B.870, subdivision 1, paragraph (b), if the refund request
12.5 is received within 60 days of the original license or title, the license or title is not used or
12.6 transferred, and:

12.7 (1) the watercraft was licensed or titled incorrectly;

12.8 (2) the customer was incorrectly charged a title fee; or

12.9 (3) the watercraft was licensed or titled twice, once by the dealer and once by the
12.10 customer.

12.11 Sec. 19. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.015, subdivision 3a, is amended to read:

12.12 Subd. 3a. **Bonus permit.** "Bonus permit" means a license to take ~~and tag~~ deer by archery
12.13 or firearms, in addition to deer authorized to be taken under regular firearms or archery
12.14 licenses, or a license issued under section 97A.441, subdivision 7.

12.15 Sec. 20. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.015, is amended by adding a subdivision
12.16 to read:

12.17 Subd. 53a. **Validation.** "Validation" means the documentation process for taking a
12.18 specific species under a license for that species, which can be completed electronically or
12.19 on the corresponding paper license, permit, or endorsement to include information specified
12.20 by the commissioner.

12.21 Sec. 21. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.215, is amended by adding a subdivision
12.22 to read:

12.23 Subd. 4. **Electronic devices.** During an inspection under subdivision 3, if a person uses
12.24 an electronic device to display a document to a conservation officer or peace officer:

12.25 (1) the officer is immune from liability for any damage to the device, unless the officer
12.26 does not exercise due care in handling the device; and

12.27 (2) it does not constitute consent for the officer to access other contents on the device.

13.1 Sec. 22. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.255, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

13.2 Subd. 5. **Joint and several liability.** When two or more people intentionally aid, advise,
13.3 counsel, conspire with, or act in concert with each other to unlawfully take, transport, or
13.4 possess wild animals when the restitution value of the wild animals exceeds \$500, each
13.5 person is jointly and severally liable for the wild animals for purposes of:

13.6 (1) license seizure, invalidation, and revocation under sections 97A.420 and 97A.421;

13.7 (2) equipment and property seizure under section 97A.221;

13.8 (3) boat, motor, and trailer seizure under section 97A.225; and

13.9 (4) restitution under section 97A.341.

13.10 Sec. 23. Minnesota Statutes 2023 Supplement, section 97A.405, subdivision 2, is amended
13.11 to read:

13.12 Subd. 2. **Personal possession.** (a) A person acting under a license or traveling from an
13.13 area where a licensed activity was performed must have in personal possession:

13.14 (1) the proper paper license, ~~if the license has been issued to and received by the person;~~

13.15 (2) a driver's license or Minnesota identification card that bears a valid designation of
13.16 the proper lifetime license, as provided under section 171.07, subdivision 19;

13.17 (3) the proper paper license identification number or stamp validation, if the license has
13.18 been sold to the person by electronic means ~~but the actual license has not been issued and~~
13.19 ~~received~~; or

13.20 (4) electronic or other evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has the
13.21 proper paperless license.

13.22 (b) If possession of a license or a license identification number is required, a person
13.23 must exhibit, as requested by a conservation officer or peace officer: (1) the proper paper
13.24 license ~~if the license has been issued to and received by the person;~~ (2) a driver's license or
13.25 Minnesota identification card that bears a valid designation of the proper lifetime license,
13.26 as provided under section 171.07, subdivision 19; (3) the proper paper license identification
13.27 number or stamp validation and a valid state driver's license, state identification card, or
13.28 other form of identification provided by the commissioner, ~~if the license has been sold to~~
13.29 ~~the person by electronic means but the actual license has not been issued and received;~~ or
13.30 (4) electronic or other evidence satisfactory to the commissioner that the person has the
13.31 proper paperless license. A person charged with violating the license possession requirement
13.32 shall not be convicted if the person produces in court or the office of the arresting officer,

the actual license previously issued to that person, which was valid at the time of arrest, or satisfactory proof that at the time of the arrest the person was validly licensed. Upon request of a conservation officer or peace officer, a licensee shall write the licensee's name in the presence of the officer to determine the identity of the licensee.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a), clauses (2) and (4), if the actual license has been issued and received, a receipt for license fees, a copy of a license, or evidence showing the issuance of a license, including the license identification number or stamp validation, does not entitle a licensee to exercise the rights or privileges conferred by a license.

(d) ~~A paper license issued electronically and not immediately provided to the licensee shall be mailed to the licensee within 30 days of purchase of the license.~~ A pictorial migratory waterfowl, pheasant, trout and salmon, or walleye stamp shall be provided to the licensee after purchase of a stamp validation only if the licensee pays an additional fee that covers the costs of producing and mailing a pictorial stamp. A pictorial turkey stamp may be purchased for a fee that covers the costs of producing and mailing the pictorial stamp. Notwithstanding section 16A.1283, the commissioner may, by written order published in the State Register, establish fees for providing the pictorial stamps. The fees must be set in an amount that does not recover significantly more or less than the cost of producing and mailing the stamps. The fees are not subject to the rulemaking provisions of chapter 14, and section 14.386 does not apply.

Sec. 24. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.405, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Duplicate licenses.** The commissioner shall prescribe rules for issuing duplicate licenses to persons whose licenses are lost or destroyed. ~~A duplicate license may not be issued unless the applicant takes an oath covering the facts of loss or destruction of the license.~~

Sec. 25. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.405, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

Subd. 4. **Replacement deer licenses.** (a) The commissioner may permit licensed deer hunters to change zone, license, or season options. The commissioner may issue a replacement deer license if the applicant ~~submits the original deer license and unused tags that are being replaced and the applicant~~ pays any increase in cost between the original and the replacement deer license. A refund of the difference in fees may be issued when a person changes from a regular deer license to a youth deer license.

(b) A replacement deer license may be issued only if the applicant has not ~~used any tag from~~ harvested a deer under the original deer license or licenses and meets the conditions

15.1 of paragraph (c). ~~The original deer license or licenses and all unused tags for the deer licenses~~
15.2 ~~being replaced must be submitted to the issuing agent at the time the replacement deer~~
15.3 ~~license is issued.~~

15.4 (c) A replacement deer license may be issued under the following conditions, or as
15.5 otherwise prescribed by rule of the commissioner:

15.6 (1) when the season for the deer license being surrendered has not yet opened; or

15.7 (2) when the person is changing from a regular deer license to a youth deer license.

15.8 (d) Notwithstanding section 97A.411, subdivision 3, a replacement deer license is valid
15.9 immediately upon issuance if the deer license being surrendered is valid at that time.

15.10 Sec. 26. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.405, subdivision 4a, is amended to read:

15.11 Subd. 4a. **Replacement turkey licenses.** (a) The commissioner may permit licensed
15.12 turkey hunters to change permit areas, licenses, or time periods within the fall turkey season,
15.13 or within the spring turkey season. The commissioner may issue a replacement turkey license
15.14 if the applicant ~~submits the original turkey license and unused tags that are being replaced,~~
15.15 ~~and the applicant~~ pays the fee for a replacement license under section 97A.475, subdivision
15.16 44.

15.17 (b) A replacement turkey license may be issued only if the applicant has not ~~used the~~
15.18 ~~tag from~~ harvested a turkey under the original turkey license and meets the requirements
15.19 of paragraph (c). ~~The original turkey licenses and all unused tags for the turkey licenses~~
15.20 ~~being replaced must be submitted to the issuing agent at the time the replacement turkey~~
15.21 ~~license is issued.~~

15.22 (c) A turkey replacement license may be issued under the following conditions, or as
15.23 otherwise prescribed by rule of the commissioner:

15.24 (1) when the permit area or time period for the turkey license being surrendered has not
15.25 yet opened; and

15.26 (2) licenses are available for the replacement turkey license permit area or time period
15.27 for (i) areas that are not lottery areas, (ii) lottery areas that have remaining licenses, or (iii)
15.28 the applicant is a youth hunter age 17 or younger.

Sec. 27. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.420, as amended by Laws 2023, chapter 60, article 4, section 50, is amended to read:

97A.420 SEIZURE OR INVALIDATION OF LICENSES.

Subdivision 1. **Seizure or invalidation.** (a) An enforcement officer shall immediately seize or invalidate the license of a person who unlawfully takes, transports, or possesses wild animals when the restitution value of the wild animals exceeds \$500. Except as provided in subdivisions 2, 4, and 5, the person may not use or obtain any license to take the same type of wild animals involved, including a duplicate license, until an action is taken under subdivision 6. If the license seized or invalidated under this paragraph was for a big game animal, the license seizure or invalidation applies to all licenses to take big game issued to the individual. If the license seized or invalidated under this paragraph was for small game animals, the license seizure or invalidation applies to all licenses to take small game issued to the individual.

(b) In addition to the license seizure or invalidation under paragraph (a), if the restitution value of the wild animals unlawfully taken, possessed, or transported is \$1,000 or more, all other game and fish licenses held by the person shall be immediately seized or invalidated. Except as provided in subdivision 2, 4, or 5, the person may not obtain any game or fish license or permit, including a duplicate license, until an action is taken under subdivision 6.

(c) A person may not take wild animals covered by a license seized or invalidated under this subdivision until an action is taken under subdivision 6.

(d) The commissioner must make a means of seizing or invalidating and releasing a paperless license under this section available to enforcement officers.

Subd. 2. **Administrative review.** (a) At any time after the seizure or invalidation of a license under subdivision 1 and before revocation under section 97A.421, a person may request in writing a review of the seizure or invalidation under this section. Upon receiving the request for review, the commissioner shall review the seizure or invalidation, the evidence upon which it was based, and other material information brought to the attention of the commissioner, and determine whether sufficient cause exists to sustain the seizure or invalidation.

(b) Within 15 days after receiving the request for administrative review, the commissioner shall issue a written report of the review and shall order that the seizure or invalidation be either sustained or rescinded.

(c) The review provided in this subdivision is not subject to the contested case provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act under chapter 14. The availability of administrative review does not preclude judicial review under this section.

Subd. 3. **Judicial review.** (a) Within 30 days following the seizure or invalidation of a license under subdivision 1, a person may petition the court for review. The petition must be filed with the district court administrator in the county where the incident occurred, together with proof of service of a copy on the commissioner and the county attorney. A responsive pleading is not required of the commissioner of natural resources and court fees may not be charged for the appearance of the representative of the commissioner in the matter.

(b) The petition must be captioned in the name of the person making the petition as petitioner and the commissioner as respondent. The petition must state specifically the grounds upon which the petitioner seeks rescission of the license seizure or invalidation.

(c) The filing of the petition does not stay the license seizure or invalidation. The judicial review shall be conducted according to the Rules of Civil Procedure.

Subd. 4. **Hearing.** (a) A hearing under subdivision 3 must be before a district court judge in the county where the incident occurred giving rise to the license seizure or invalidation. The hearing must be to the court and may be conducted at the same time as hearings upon pretrial motions in a related criminal prosecution. The commissioner must be represented by the county attorney.

(b) The hearing must be held at the earliest practicable date and in any event no later than 60 days following the filing of the petition for review.

(c) The scope of the hearing must be limited to the issue of whether there is probable cause to believe that the person had unlawfully taken, possessed, or transported wild animals with a restitution value over \$500.

(d) The court shall order that the license seizure or invalidation be either sustained or rescinded. Within 14 days following the hearing, the court shall forward a copy of the order to the commissioner.

(e) Any party aggrieved by the decision of the reviewing court may appeal the decision as provided in the Rules of Civil Appellate Procedure.

Subd. 5. **Temporary release of commercial licenses.** At any time during the period that a game or fish license is seized or invalidated under subdivision 1, a person possessing a commercial license issued under the game and fish laws may make a written request to

the commissioner to temporarily release the commercial license. If the commissioner determines that the public welfare will not be injured, the commissioner may temporarily reinstate the commercial license upon payment of a temporary reinstatement fee of \$1,000 cash or bond in favor of the state for each commercial license to be released. An additional fee is not required for vehicles licensed under section 97A.475, subdivision 26, clause (2) or (4). If the license is returned under subdivision 6, paragraph (a), the temporary reinstatement fee shall be returned to the licensee. If the license is revoked under subdivision 6, paragraph (b), the temporary reinstatement fee shall be deposited in the game and fish fund and is not refundable.

Subd. 6. Return or revocation of licenses upon dismissal or conviction. (a) Upon acquittal, dismissal, or determination not to charge a person for a violation, the license seizure or invalidation under subdivision 1 is immediately rescinded and any license seized or invalidated in connection with the incident must be returned to the licensee or reinstated.

(b) Upon conviction of a violation when the restitution value of the wild animals exceeds \$500, revocation of licenses and license privileges must be imposed as provided under section 97A.421, subdivision 2a.

Sec. 28. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.445, is amended by adding a subdivision to read:

Subd. 6. License system. In the event of a disruption in the availability of hunting and angling licenses, the commissioner may publish in the State Register a notice that exempts residents and nonresidents from requirements to possess a license to take game or fish.

Sec. 29. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

Subdivision 1. Resident lifetime licenses authorized. (a) The commissioner may issue a lifetime angling license, a lifetime spearing license, a lifetime angling and spearing license, a lifetime small-game-hunting license, a lifetime firearm or archery deer-hunting license, a lifetime sporting license, or a lifetime sporting with spearing option license to a person who is a resident of the state for at least one year or who is under age 21 and the child of a person who is a resident of the state for at least one year. The license fees paid for a lifetime license are nonrefundable.

(b) The commissioner may require the holder of a lifetime license issued under this section to notify the department each year that the license is used, by:

(1) telephone or Internet notification, as specified by the commissioner;

19.1 (2) the purchase of stamps for the license; or

19.2 (3) registration ~~and tag issuance~~, in the case of the resident lifetime deer license.

19.3 Sec. 30. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

19.4 Subd. 3. **Lifetime small-game-hunting license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime
19.5 small-game-hunting license authorizes a person to hunt and trap small game, other than
19.6 wolves, in the state. The license authorizes those hunting and trapping activities authorized
19.7 by the annual resident small-game-hunting license and the trapping license for fur-bearing
19.8 animals other than wolves. The license does not include ~~a turkey stamp validation or any~~
19.9 ~~other~~ hunting stamps required by law.

19.10 (b) The fees for a resident lifetime small-game-hunting license are:

19.11 (1) age 3 and under, \$223;

19.12 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$301;

19.13 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$430; and

19.14 (4) age 51 and over, \$274.

19.15 Sec. 31. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

19.16 Subd. 4. **Lifetime deer-hunting license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime deer-hunting license
19.17 authorizes a person to take deer with firearms or by archery in the state. The license
19.18 authorizes those activities authorized by the annual resident firearm deer-hunting license
19.19 or the annual resident archery deer-hunting license. The licensee must ~~register and receive~~
19.20 ~~tags~~ review and confirm information each year that the license is used. ~~The tags shall be~~
19.21 ~~issued at no charge to the licensee.~~

19.22 (b) The fees for a resident lifetime firearm or archery deer-hunting license are:

19.23 (1) age 3 and under, \$458;

19.24 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$607;

19.25 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$741; and

19.26 (4) age 51 and over, \$528.

19.27 Sec. 32. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 5, is amended to read:

19.28 Subd. 5. **Lifetime sporting license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime sporting license authorizes
19.29 a person to take fish by angling and hunt and trap small game, other than wolves, in the

state. The license authorizes those activities authorized by the annual resident angling and resident small-game-hunting licenses and the resident trapping license for fur-bearing animals other than wolves. The license does not include a trout-and-salmon stamp validation, ~~a turkey stamp validation~~, a walleye stamp validation, or any other ~~hunting~~ stamps required by law.

(b) The fees for a resident lifetime sporting license are:

(1) age 3 and under, \$522;

(2) age 4 to age 15, \$710;

(3) age 16 to age 50, \$927; and

(4) age 51 and over, \$603.

Sec. 33. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.473, subdivision 5a, is amended to read:

Subd. 5a. **Lifetime sporting with spearing option license; fee.** (a) A resident lifetime sporting with spearing option license authorizes a person to take fish by angling or spearing and hunt and trap small game, other than wolves, in the state. The license authorizes those activities authorized by the annual resident angling, spearing, and resident small-game-hunting licenses and the resident trapping license for fur-bearing animals other than wolves. The license does not include a trout-and-salmon stamp validation, ~~a turkey stamp validation~~, a walleye stamp validation, or any other ~~hunting~~ stamps required by law.

(b) The fees for a resident lifetime sporting with spearing option license are:

(1) age 3 and under, \$612;

(2) age 4 to age 15, \$833;

(3) age 16 to age 50, \$1,046; and

(4) age 51 and over, \$666.

Sec. 34. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.474, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

Subd. 3. **Nonresident lifetime small-game-hunting license; fee.** (a) A nonresident lifetime small-game-hunting license authorizes a person to hunt small game in the state. The license authorizes those hunting activities authorized by the annual nonresident small-game-hunting license. The license does not include ~~a turkey stamp validation~~ or any ~~other~~ hunting stamps required by law.

(b) The fees for a nonresident lifetime small-game-hunting license are:

- 21.1 (1) age 3 and under, \$947;
- 21.2 (2) age 4 to age 15, \$1,280;
- 21.3 (3) age 16 to age 50, \$1,633; and
- 21.4 (4) age 51 and over, \$1,083.

21.5 Sec. 35. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.481, is amended to read:

21.6 **97A.481 LICENSE APPLICATIONS; PENALTY.**

21.7 All information required on a license application form must be furnished. The ~~application~~
21.8 ~~must be made in writing and~~ applicant is subject to the penalty prescribed in section 97A.301,
21.9 subdivision 1, clause (5).

21.10 Sec. 36. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.485, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

21.11 Subd. 6. **Licenses to be sold and issuing fees.** (a) Persons authorized to sell licenses
21.12 under this section must issue the following licenses for the license fee and the following
21.13 issuing fees:

- 21.14 (1) to take deer or bear with firearms and by archery, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.15 (2) Minnesota sporting, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.16 (3) to take small game, to take fish by angling or by spearing, and to trap fur-bearing
21.17 animals, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.18 (4) to apply for a limited hunt drawing, the issuing fee is \$1 unless the application requires
21.19 a license purchase at the time of application and the license purchase requires an application
21.20 fee;
- 21.21 (5) for a prairie-chicken license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.22 (6) for a turkey license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.23 (7) for an elk license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.24 (8) for a moose license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.25 (9) for a wolf license, the issuing fee is \$1;
- 21.26 (10) for a stamp validation that is not issued simultaneously with a license, an issuing
21.27 fee of 50 cents may be charged at the discretion of the authorized seller;
- 21.28 (11) for stamp validations issued simultaneously with a license, there is no fee;

22.1 (12) for licenses, seals, tags, or coupons issued without a fee under section 97A.441,
22.2 subdivisions 1 to 6a, or 97A.465, there is no fee;

22.3 (13) for lifetime licenses, there is no fee; and

22.4 (14) for all other licenses, permits, renewals, or applications or any other transaction
22.5 through the electronic licensing system under this chapter or any other chapter when an
22.6 issuing fee is not specified, an issuing fee of \$1 may be charged at the discretion of the
22.7 authorized seller.

22.8 (b) Only one issuing fee may be collected when selling more than one stamp in the same
22.9 transaction after the end of the season for which the stamp was issued.

22.10 (c) The agent shall keep the issuing fee as a commission for selling the licenses.

22.11 (d) The commissioner shall collect the issuing fee on licenses sold by the commissioner.

22.12 (e) A license, except stamps, must state the amount of the issuing fee and that the issuing
22.13 fee is kept by the seller as a commission for selling the licenses.

22.14 (f) For duplicate licenses, including licenses issued without a fee, the issuing fees are:

22.15 (1) for licenses to take big game, 75 cents; and

22.16 (2) for other licenses, 50 cents.

22.17 ~~(g) The commissioner may issue one-day angling licenses in books of ten licenses each~~
22.18 ~~to fishing guides operating charter boats upon receipt of payment of all license fees, excluding~~
22.19 ~~the issuing fee required under this section. Copies of sold and unsold licenses shall be~~
22.20 ~~returned to the commissioner. The commissioner shall refund the charter boat captain for~~
22.21 ~~the license fees of all unsold licenses. Copies of sold licenses shall be maintained by the~~
22.22 ~~commissioner for one year.~~

22.23 Sec. 37. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.535, subdivision 1, is amended to read:

22.24 Subdivision 1. **Tags Validation required.** (a) A person may not possess or transport
22.25 deer, bear, elk, or moose taken in the state unless ~~a tag is attached to the carcass in a manner~~
22.26 the person has the required license and validation for that animal as prescribed by the
22.27 commissioner. The commissioner must prescribe the type of tag that has the license number
22.28 of the owner, the year of its issue, and other information prescribed by the commissioner.

22.29 (b) The tag license must be validated at the site of the kill as prescribed by the
22.30 commissioner.

23.1 ~~(c) Except as otherwise provided in this section, the tag must be attached to the deer,~~
23.2 ~~bear, elk, or moose at the site of the kill before the animal is removed from the site of the~~
23.3 ~~kill.~~

23.4 ~~(d) The tag must remain attached to the animal until the animal is processed for storage.~~

23.5 ~~(e) A person may move a lawfully taken deer, bear, elk, or moose from the site of the~~
23.6 ~~kill without attaching the validated tag to the animal only while in the act of manually or~~
23.7 ~~mechanically dragging, carrying, or carting the animal across the ground and while possessing~~
23.8 ~~the validated tag on their person. A motor vehicle may be used to drag the animal across~~
23.9 ~~the ground. At all other times, the validated tag must be attached to the deer, bear, elk, or~~
23.10 ~~moose.~~

23.11 ~~(1) as otherwise provided in this section; and~~

23.12 ~~(2) prior to the animal being placed onto and transported on a motor vehicle, being hung~~
23.13 ~~from a tree or other structure or device, or being brought into a camp or yard or other place~~
23.14 ~~of habitation.~~

23.15 Sec. 38. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.535, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

23.16 Subd. 2. **Registration required.** Deer, bear, elk, and moose must be registered as
23.17 prescribed by the commissioner, ~~in addition to the tag required in subdivision 1.~~

23.18 Sec. 39. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.535, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

23.19 Subd. 2a. **Quartering deer allowed.** A deer that has been ~~tagged~~ validated as required
23.20 in subdivision 1 may be quartered at the site of the kill. The animal's head must remain
23.21 attached to one of the quarters. The quarters must be presented together for registration
23.22 under subdivision 2 and must remain together until the deer is processed for storage.

23.23 Sec. 40. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.535, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

23.24 Subd. 4. **Transporting by person other than licensee.** A person other than the licensee
23.25 may transport deer, bear, elk, or moose that the licensee has registered as prescribed by the
23.26 commissioner. ~~A tag must be attached to the animal and marked in ink~~ The person
23.27 transporting the animal must possess documentation with the address, license number,
23.28 signature and full legal name of the licensee, and the locations from which and to which
23.29 the animal is being transported.

24.1 Sec. 41. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97A.551, subdivision 6, is amended to read:

24.2 Subd. 6. **Tagging and Registration.** The commissioner may, by rule, require persons
24.3 taking, possessing, and transporting certain species of fish to ~~tag the fish with a special fish~~
24.4 ~~management tag and may require registration of tagged~~ possess an endorsement for and
24.5 register the fish. A person may not possess or transport a fish species taken in the state for
24.6 which a special fish-management ~~tag~~ registration is required unless ~~a tag is attached to the~~
24.7 ~~fish is registered or validated~~ in a manner prescribed by the commissioner. The commissioner
24.8 shall prescribe the manner of issuance and the type of ~~tag~~ endorsement as authorized under
24.9 section 97C.087. ~~The tag must be attached to the fish as prescribed by the commissioner~~
24.10 Immediately upon reducing the fish to possession, the licensee must validate the license
24.11 and the license must remain attached to with the fish until the fish is ~~processed or consumed~~
24.12 registered. Species for which a special fish management ~~tag~~ registration is required must
24.13 be transported undressed, except as otherwise prescribed by the commissioner.

24.14 Sec. 42. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.303, is amended to read:

24.15 **97B.303 VENISON DONATIONS.**

24.16 An individual who legally takes a deer may donate the deer, for distribution to charitable
24.17 food assistance programs, to a meat processor that is licensed under chapter 28A. An
24.18 individual donating a deer must supply the processor with the ~~tag~~ licensee's DNR number
24.19 under which the deer was taken.

24.20 Sec. 43. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.401, is amended to read:

24.21 **97B.401 BEAR LICENSE REQUIRED; APPLICATION.**

24.22 (a) A person may not take bear without a bear license except as provided in section
24.23 97B.415 to protect property.

24.24 (b) A person may not place bait for bears on or after the Friday nearest August 14 unless
24.25 the person has a bear license or is operating under the direction of a person with a valid bear
24.26 license.

24.27 (c) An application for a bear license must be ~~on a form provided~~ made in the manner
24.28 prescribed by the commissioner and accompanied by a \$4 application fee. A person may
24.29 not make more than one application for each season. If a person makes more than one
24.30 application, the person is ineligible for a license for that season after determination by the
24.31 commissioner, without a hearing.

Sec. 44. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.603, is amended to read:

97B.603 TAKING SMALL GAME BY PARTY.

(a) While two or more persons are taking small game as a party and maintaining unaided visual and vocal contact, a member of the party may take and possess more than one limit of small game, but the total number of small game taken and possessed by the party may not exceed the limit of the number of persons in the party that may take and possess small game.

(b) This section does not apply to hunting wolves, migratory game birds, or turkeys, except that a licensed turkey hunter may assist another licensed turkey hunter and a licensed wolf hunter may assist another licensed wolf hunter for the same zone and time period as long as the hunter does not shoot or ~~tag~~ register a turkey or wolf for the other hunter.

Sec. 45. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.716, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. ~~Tagging and Registration.~~ The commissioner may by rule prescribe requirements for the ~~tagging and~~ registration of prairie chickens.

Sec. 46. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97B.721, is amended to read:

97B.721 LICENSE REQUIRED TO TAKE TURKEY; ~~TAGGING AND~~ REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.

(a) Except as provided in paragraph (b) or section 97A.405, subdivision 2, a person may not take a turkey without possessing a turkey license.

(b) An unlicensed adult age 18 or older may assist a licensed wild-turkey hunter. The unlicensed adult may not shoot or possess a firearm or bow while assisting a hunter under this paragraph and may not charge a fee for the assistance.

(c) The commissioner may by rule prescribe requirements for the ~~tagging~~ validation and registration of turkeys.

Sec. 47. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97C.087, is amended to read:

97C.087 SPECIAL FISH MANAGEMENT ~~TAGS~~ REGISTRATION.

Subdivision 1. ~~Tags to be issued~~ Registration. If the commissioner determines it is necessary to require that a species of fish be ~~tagged with a special fish management tag~~ registered, the commissioner shall prescribe, by rule, the species to be ~~tagged~~ registered, ~~tagging~~ registration procedures, and endorsement eligibility requirements.

Subd. 2. **Application for ~~tag~~ endorsement.** Application for a special fish management ~~tags~~ endorsement must be accompanied by a \$5, nonrefundable application fee for each ~~tag~~ endorsement. A person may not make more than one ~~tag~~ endorsement application each calendar year. If a person makes more than one application, the person is ineligible for a special fish management ~~tag~~ endorsement for that calendar year after determination by the commissioner, without a hearing.

Sec. 48. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97C.301, subdivision 2a, is amended to read:

Subd. 2a. **Aquatic invasive species affirmation.** (a) A nonresident license to take fish issued under section 97A.475, subdivision 7, includes aquatic invasive species affirmation as provided in section 84D.106.

(b) The aquatic invasive species affirmation portion of the license must be displayed with the ~~signed~~ nonresident license to take fish issued under section 97A.475, subdivision 7. The aquatic invasive species affirmation will be provided at the time of purchase of a new or duplicate nonresident license.

(c) If a license is purchased online, the aquatic invasive species affirmation may be completed electronically as part of the online sales process, and the electronic record of the license sale is sufficient for documenting the affirmation.

(d) Failure to complete the aquatic invasive species affirmation in this subdivision is subject to the penalty prescribed in section 84D.13, subdivision 5.

Sec. 49. Minnesota Statutes 2022, section 97C.355, subdivision 2, is amended to read:

Subd. 2. **License required.** (a) A person may not place a dark house, fish house, or shelter, except a portable shelter, on the ice unless ~~the house or shelter~~:

(1) the house or shelter is licensed by the shelter owner; and

(2) ~~has the license tag attached to the exterior in a readily visible location, except as provided in this subdivision~~ the owners' information is displayed according to subdivision 1.

(b) ~~The commissioner must issue a tag with a dark house, fish house, or shelter license, marked with a number to correspond with the license and the year of issue.~~ A dark house, fish house, or shelter license is not required of a resident on boundary waters where the adjacent state does not charge a fee for the same activity.

27.1 Sec. 50. **REQUIRED RULEMAKING.**

27.2 The commissioner of natural resources may use the good cause exemption under
27.3 Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388, subdivision 1, clause (3), to adopt rules conforming to
27.4 this act. Minnesota Statutes, section 14.386, does not apply to rules adopted under this
27.5 section, except as provided under Minnesota Statutes, section 14.388.

27.6 Sec. 51. **REPEALER.**

27.7 Minnesota Statutes 2022, sections 97A.015, subdivision 27a; and 97A.485, subdivision
27.8 13, are repealed.

27.9 Sec. 52. **EFFECTIVE DATE.**

27.10 Sections 1 to 51 are effective upon full implementation of the replacement electronic
27.11 license system. The commissioner of natural resources must notify the revisor of statutes
27.12 when the replacement electronic license system is fully implemented.

APPENDIX
Repealed Minnesota Statutes: 24-05480

97A.015 DEFINITIONS.

Subd. 27a. **License identification number.** "License identification number" means a verification number issued under the authority of the commissioner in conjunction with the electronic purchase of a license or stamp and valid until the license is received by the purchaser.

97A.485 ISSUANCE OF LICENSES.

Subd. 13. **One-day paper fishing licenses.** The commissioner must allow one-day paper fishing licenses to be sold by fishing guides operating charter boats.