

SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

S.F. No. 553

(SENATE AUTHORS: WESENBERG, Westrom, Anderson and Eichorn)		
DATE	D-PG	OFFICIAL STATUS
01/23/2025	159	Introduction and first reading
		Referred to Agriculture, Veterans, Broadband and Rural Development
02/03/2025		Comm report: Amended, No recommendation, re-referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy

1.1

A bill for an act

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relating to agriculture; modifying fencing requirements for farmed Cervidae;

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amending Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 4.

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

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Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 35.155, subdivision 4, is amended to read:

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Subd. 4. **Fencing.** Farmed Cervidae must be confined in a manner designed to prevent

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escape. All perimeter fences for farmed Cervidae must be at least 96 inches in height and

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be constructed and maintained in a way that prevents the escape of farmed Cervidae; and

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entry into the premises by free-roaming Cervidae; ~~and physical contact between farmed~~

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~~Cervidae and free-roaming Cervidae.~~ The Board of Animal Health or commissioner of

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natural resources may determine whether the construction and maintenance of fencing is

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adequate to prevent physical contact or escape under this subdivision and may compel

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corrective action when fencing is determined to be inadequate. All new fencing installed

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and all fencing used to repair deficiencies must be high tensile. All entry areas for farmed

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Cervidae enclosure areas must have two redundant gates, which must be maintained to

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prevent the escape of animals through an open gate. If a fence deficiency allows entry or

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exit by farmed or wild Cervidae, the owner must immediately repair the deficiency. All

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other deficiencies must be repaired within a reasonable time, as determined by the Board

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of Animal Health, not to exceed 14 days. If a fence deficiency is detected during an

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inspection, the facility must be reinspected at least once in the subsequent three months.

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The farmed Cervidae owner must pay a reinspection fee equal to one-half the applicable

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annual inspection fee under subdivision 7a for each reinspection related to a fence violation.

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If the facility experiences more than one escape incident in any six-month period or fails

- 2.1 to correct a deficiency found during an inspection, the board may revoke the facility's
- 2.2 registration and order the owner to remove or destroy the animals as directed by the board.
- 2.3 ~~If the board revokes a facility's registration, the commissioner of natural resources may~~
- 2.4 ~~seize and destroy animals at the facility.~~