



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2010 POLICY FACT SHEET DNR Criminal Justice Bill

CONTENT

This bill provides law enforcement options for enforcement of invasive species laws, control of wild animals, and sharing of incident data.

OVERVIEW

Section 1

Unlawful Transportation of Aquatic Macrophytes

This language amends Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 84D.13, subdivision 3, by providing a criminal citation option for the unlawful transportation of aquatic macrophytes. Currently, there is no criminal citation option available. The only remedy is a civil penalty. Other invasive species violations provide for a criminal citation option. The DNR anticipates that a base fine of \$50 would be included on the statewide payables list for such a violation, allowing the payment of the fine without a court appearance.

Section 2

BCA/CRIMNET/CIBRS

This language amends Minnesota Statutes 2009, section 299C.40, subdivision 1, clarifying that the Department of Natural Resources Enforcement Division is a law enforcement agency for purposes of participating in the BCA/CRIMNET Comprehensive Incident Based Reporting System (CIBRS). DNR conservation officers are licensed peace officers who deal with the same violators as other law enforcement agencies. The Bureau of Criminal Apprehension recognizes DNR Enforcement as a law enforcement agency and does not object to this technical change to the CIBRS section.

Section 3

Wildlife Control Operations

This language amends Minnesota Statutes 2008, section 609.66, proposing the continued use of silencers for wildlife control operations. The authority to use silencers for wildlife control operations is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2011. The language

proposes the continued use of this option and the lifting of the sunset provision. Current law authorizes the use of firearm silencers by certain DNR employees and persons acting under contract with the Department for wildlife control purposes. Existing law includes numerous constraints on policy and procedure to limit and maintain control of the silencing devices which will remain in place with this language. The DNR proposes to eliminate the sunset date for the authority to use silencers for these wildlife control operations. Under existing authority, the DNR has authorized federal USDA Wildlife Services to use firearms with silencers to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of wildlife control efforts for airport safety, bovine TB, and chronic wasting disease (CWD) management.

The use of silencers for wildlife control operations has been effectively utilized for double crested cormorant control on Leech Lake, airport safety to help prevent aircraft strikes of wildlife at airports, bovine tuberculosis control in Northwestern Minnesota, and chronic wasting disease management in captive elk herds.

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