

Big Game License Revocation Upon Conviction



Related Facts

Approximately 500,000 people purchase deer hunting licenses in Minnesota each year.

Deer hunting generates nearly \$500 million annually in total economic activity in Minnesota.

Summary

Hunting big game species, such as deer, elk and bear are important to many Minnesotans. Big game hunting spans all cultures, ethnicities and socioeconomic groups, and is an opportunity for people to reconnect with nature, family and friends of all ages. Big game law violators steal from all Minnesotans and put our future hunting opportunities at risk. Violators hurt all hunters and outdoor enthusiasts, and negatively impact Minnesota's multi-billion dollar outdoor recreation industry. For these reasons, the Legislature previously revoked a person's hunting privileges upon conviction of serious big game violations or multiple big game-taking violations within a three-year period. Unfortunately, some violators found a way around the legislative intent. The purpose of this policy proposal is to resolve that issue.

Proposal

This proposal seeks to clarify the Legislature's intent when it imposed license revocations upon conviction of big game related gross misdemeanor violations, hunting big game without a license, or for a second conviction within three years related to the taking of big game. Under current Statute, if a person purchases a license before being convicted, they could use that license even after conviction since it was purchased before the conviction date. With this proposal, any big game license the individual possesses at the time of a conviction will be invalid immediately upon that conviction. This clarifies the legislative intent, and supports judicial and due process.

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