



MNDNR

## 2016 FACT SHEET

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



### Game and Fish Bill

#### It is needed because

This bill simplifies regulations and clarifies Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) authorities. This initiative promotes sustainable use and stewardship of fish and wildlife resources, and enhances fishing and hunting opportunities.

#### Major program elements

**Sec. 1. Non-resident under age 16 attending camps; fishing.** This provision simplifies the requirement for non-resident youth at a camp to fish without a license. Current statute requires a document prescribed by the commissioner. This change will allow persons in charge of the camp to provide the documentation.

**Sec. 2. Hunting with bows released by mechanical devices.** This provision clarifies using a crossbow is legal for persons age 60 or over.

**Sec. 3. Possession of firearms and ammunition restricted in deer zones.** This provision clarifies that the first violation of this statute is a warning if the person is shooting at an object placed for the sole purpose of target shooting.

**Sect. 4. Feeding bears.** This policy prohibits feeding bears by hand or having other

physical contact. This is a public safety concern.

**Sec. 5. Restrictions on certain motorized decoys.** This provision will remove the restriction on motorized decoys during the first eight days of the duck season. The restricted use will still apply on Wildlife Management Areas.

**Sec. 6. Beaver season.** This provision allows the commissioner to close the beaver season in southern Minnesota earlier than May 15 in the event of an early thaw. Beaver pelts taken under these conditions are less marketable due to damaged guard hairs and dull coloration. In a 2014 survey, 76 percent of southern Minnesota trappers were either supportive or neutral regarding an April 30 beaver season closure.

#### Key measures and outcomes

DNR provides high-quality fishing, hunting, trapping, and wildlife viewing opportunities by ensuring healthy fish and wildlife populations and habitat, public access to outdoor recreation opportunities, and safety and compliance with game and fish laws.

#### Fiscal impacts

No fiscal impacts are anticipated with this initiative.

## **For further information contact**

*Patrick Rivers, Acting Deputy Director  
Division of Fish and Wildlife  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5224  
pat.rivers@state.mn.us*

*Colonel Rodmen Smith, Director  
Division of Enforcement  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
500 Lafayette Rd. St. Paul, MN 55155  
651-259-5042  
rodmen.smith@state.mn.us*

This information can be made available in alternative formats such as large print, braille or audio tape by emailing [info.dnr@state.mn.us](mailto:info.dnr@state.mn.us) calling 651-259-5016.