

This Document can be made available in alternative formats upon request

State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FOURTH SESSION

H. F. No. 1301

02/20/2025 Authored by Roach, Davis and Van Binsbergen

The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to natural resources; authorizing the use of unmanned aircraft to assist in  
1.3 locating and recovering deceased big game; requiring a report; amending Minnesota  
1.4 Statutes 2024, section 97B.115.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.115, is amended to read:

1.7 **97B.115 COMPUTER-ASSISTED REMOTE HUNTING PROHIBITED.**

1.8 (a) No person shall operate, provide, sell, use or offer to operate, provide, sell or use  
1.9 any computer software or service that allows a person, not physically present at the site, to  
1.10 remotely control a weapon that could be used to take any wild animal by remote operation,  
1.11 including, but not limited to, weapons or devices set up to fire through the use of the Internet  
1.12 or through a remote control device.

1.13 (b) A person who violates ~~this section~~ paragraph (a) is guilty of a misdemeanor.

1.14 (c) Effective January 1, 2027, a person who possesses a remote pilot certificate issued  
1.15 by the Federal Aviation Administration may use a small unmanned aircraft system, as  
1.16 defined under section 360.013, to locate deceased big game for retrieval.

1.17 Sec. 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR USE OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT TO**  
1.18 **LOCATE DECEASED BIG GAME.**

1.19 By January 1, 2026, the commissioner of natural resources, in conjunction with interested  
1.20 stakeholders, must make findings and recommendations to the chairs and ranking minority  
1.21 members of the legislative committees and divisions with jurisdiction over environment  
1.22 policy on statutory and policy changes needed to facilitate the use of small unmanned aircraft

- 2.1 systems to locate deceased big game for retrieval. The findings and recommendations must
- 2.2 include recommendations for:
- 2.3 (1) licensure requirements, including requirements for maintaining insurance;
- 2.4 (2) requirements applicable to unmanned aircraft and related equipment;
- 2.5 (3) whether an annual fee will be necessary to administer Minnesota Statutes, section
- 2.6 97B.115, paragraph (c);
- 2.7 (4) guaranteeing respect for affected owners' property; and
- 2.8 (5) any other matters the commissioner deems relevant.