

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION**

S.F. No. 1549

(SENATE AUTHORS: SCHMIT)

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A bill for an act

relating to game and fish; establishing a pilot program in southeastern Minnesota for issuing additional deer licenses to landowners with deer damage; requiring a Web site for connecting landowners suffering deer damage with deer hunters.

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

Section 1. PILOT PROGRAM; SERIES 300 DEER PERMIT AREAS.

(a) In the Series 300 deer permit areas, the commissioner of natural resources shall establish a pilot program to issue, without a fee, five licenses to take antlerless deer to a resident who is an owner or tenant of at least 80 acres of agricultural land, as defined in Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.001, when the resident has suffered crop damage from deer of at least \$..... during the previous 12-month period. The licenses issued under this paragraph are restricted to the land of the owner or tenant and are in addition to licenses issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.441, subdivision 7. The holder of the license may transfer the license to another person. The owner or tenant of the land must record any licenses transferred under this paragraph, including the name and license number of the transferee. Deer taken under this section do not count towards the total bag limit for the permit area. Notwithstanding Minnesota Statutes, sections 97A.415, subdivision 1, and 97B.301, subdivision 2, the holder of the license may purchase additional licenses or permits for taking deer and may take additional deer under those licenses or permits, provided the holder adheres to the bag limits established for that permit area.

(b) A person who obtains a license under paragraph (a) must allow public deer hunting on their land during that deer hunting season, with the exception of the first Saturday and Sunday during the deer hunting season applicable to the license issued under Minnesota Statutes, section 97A.475, subdivision 2, clause (5).

2.1 (c) In Series 300 deer permit areas, the commissioner of natural resources shall
2.2 establish a pilot program to provide a Web site for farmers experiencing damage from deer
2.3 who are willing to open their farms to licensed deer hunters. The Web site must allow
2.4 hunters to contact the owner or tenant of the agricultural land online. Only licensed deer
2.5 hunters with advanced hunter education certification are eligible for the program.

2.6 (d) This section expires February 28, 2020.