

**SENATE  
STATE OF MINNESOTA  
NINETY-FOURTH SESSION**

**S.F. No. 965**

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOWE)

DATE  
02/03/2025

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Introduction and first reading  
Referred to Environment, Climate, and Legacy

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act  
1.2 relating to game and fish; modifying deer firearms season dates; amending  
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.311.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2024, section 97B.311, is amended to read:

1.6 **97B.311 DEER SEASONS AND RESTRICTIONS.**

1.7 (a) The commissioner may, by rule, prescribe restrictions and designate areas where  
1.8 deer may be taken, including hunter selection criteria for special hunts established under  
1.9 section 97A.401, subdivision 4. The commissioner may, by rule, prescribe the open seasons  
1.10 for deer within the following periods:

1.11 (1) taking with firearms, other than muzzle-loading firearms, between ~~November 1~~ the  
1.12 first Tuesday after the first Monday in November and December 15;

1.13 (2) taking with muzzle-loading firearms between September 1 and December 31; and

1.14 (3) taking by archery between September 1 and December 31.

1.15 (b) Notwithstanding paragraph (a), the commissioner may establish special seasons  
1.16 within designated areas at any time of year.