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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETY-FIRST SESSION

H. F. No. 2442

03/13/2019 Authored by Swedzinski, Heintzeman and Mekeland
The bill was read for the first time and referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; allowing use of night vision equipment while hunting
1.3 coyote or fox; establishing civil penalties; amending Minnesota Statutes 2018,
1.4 sections 97A.421, by adding a subdivision; 97B.086.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 97A.421, is amended by adding a subdivision
1.7 to read:

1.8 Subd. 3b. Issuance after conviction; night vision or thermal imaging equipment. (a)
1.9 A person who is convicted of a violation under paragraph (b) and possessed night vision or
1.10 thermal imaging equipment may not obtain a hunting license or hunt wild animals for five
1.11 years from the date of conviction.

1.12 (b) The revocation under this subdivision applies to convictions of:

1.13 (1) trespass;

1.14 (2) hunting game in closed season; or

1.15 (3) hunting game before or after legal shooting hours.

1.16 Sec. 2. Minnesota Statutes 2018, section 97B.086, is amended to read:

1.17 97B.086 POSSESSING NIGHT VISION OR THERMAL IMAGING EQUIPMENT.

1.18 (a) A person may not possess night vision or thermal imaging equipment while taking
1.19 wild animals or while having in possession, either individually or as one of a group of
1.20 persons, a firearm, bow, or other implement that could be used to take wild animals.

1.21 (b) This section does not apply to a firearm that is:

- 2.1 (1) unloaded;
- 2.2 (2) in a gun case expressly made to contain a firearm that fully encloses the firearm by  
2.3 being zipped, snapped, buckled, tied, or otherwise fastened without any portion of the  
2.4 firearm exposed; and
- 2.5 (3) in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle.
- 2.6 (c) This section does not apply to a bow that is:
- 2.7 (1) completely encased or unstrung; and
- 2.8 (2) in the closed trunk of a motor vehicle.
- 2.9 (d) If the motor vehicle under paragraph (b) or (c) does not have a trunk, the firearm or  
2.10 bow must be placed in the rearmost location of the vehicle.
- 2.11 (e) This section does not apply to night vision or thermal imaging equipment possessed  
2.12 by:
- 2.13 (1) peace officers or military personnel while exercising their duties; or
- 2.14 (2) a person taking coyote or fox as provided under section 97B.075 and rules adopted  
2.15 under section 97B.605.