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State of Minnesota

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NINETIETH SESSION

H. F. No. 2858

02/09/2018 Authored by Swedzinski
The bill was referred to the Committee on Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Finance

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; modifying restrictions for using artificial lights while
1.3 hunting; amending Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 97B.081, subdivision 3.

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

1.5 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2016, section 97B.081, subdivision 3, is amended to read:

1.6 Subd. 3. **Exceptions.** (a) It is not a violation of this section for a person to:

1.7 (1) cast the rays of a spotlight, headlight, or other artificial light to take raccoons
1.8 according to section 97B.621, subdivision 3, or tend traps according to section 97B.931;

1.9 (2) hunt fox or coyote from January 1 to March 15 while using ~~a handheld~~ an artificial
1.10 light, provided that the person is:

1.11 (i) on foot;

1.12 (ii) ~~using a shotgun~~;

1.13 ~~(iii)~~ not within a public road right-of-way;

1.14 ~~(iv)~~ (iii) using a handheld or electronic calling device; and

1.15 ~~(v)~~ (iv) not within 200 feet of a motor vehicle; or

1.16 (3) cast the rays of a handheld artificial light to retrieve wounded or dead big game
1.17 animals, provided that the person is:

1.18 (i) on foot; and

1.19 (ii) not in possession of a firearm or bow.

2.1 (b) It is not a violation of subdivision 2 for a person to cast the rays of a spotlight,
2.2 headlight, or other artificial light to:

2.3 (1) carry out any agricultural, safety, emergency response, normal vehicle operation, or
2.4 occupation-related activities that do not involve taking wild animals; or

2.5 (2) carry out outdoor recreation as defined in section 97B.001 that is not related to
2.6 spotting, locating, or taking a wild animal.

2.7 (c) Except as otherwise provided by the game and fish laws, it is not a violation of this
2.8 section for a person to use an electronic range finder device from one-half hour before
2.9 sunrise until one-half hour after sunset while lawfully hunting wild animals.

2.10 (d) It is not a violation of this section for a licensed bear hunter to cast the rays of a
2.11 handheld artificial light to track or retrieve a wounded or dead bear while possessing a
2.12 firearm, provided that the person:

2.13 (1) has the person's valid bear-hunting license in possession;

2.14 (2) is on foot; and

2.15 (3) is following the blood trail of a bear that was shot during legal shooting hours.