

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

S.F. No. 271

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DATE
01/25/2021

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Introduction and first reading
Referred to Environment and Natural Resources Policy and Legacy Finance

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A bill for an act
1.2 relating to game and fish; prohibiting certain antler point restrictions; amending
1.3 Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.311; repealing Laws 2013, chapter 121,
1.4 section 53; Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0350.

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

1.6 Section 1. Minnesota Statutes 2020, section 97B.311, is amended to read:

1.7 **97B.311 DEER SEASONS AND RESTRICTIONS.**

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

1.12 (1) taking with firearms, other than muzzle-loading firearms, between November 1 and
1.13 December 15;

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

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

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

1.18 (c) The commissioner may not impose an antler point restriction other than that imposed
1.19 under Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0200, subpart 6.

1.20 Sec. 2. **REPEALER.**

1.21 Laws 2013, chapter 121, section 53, and Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0350, are repealed.

Laws 2013, chapter 121, section 53

Sec. 53. ANTLER POINT RESTRICTIONS.

The commissioner of natural resources may not impose an antler point restriction in areas outside the Series 300 deer permit areas, other than that imposed under Minnesota Rules, part 6232.0200, subpart 6, unless the legislature approves the antler point restriction.

6232.0350 RESTRICTIONS FOR TAKING DEER; 300 SERIES DEER PERMIT AREAS.

Notwithstanding part 6232.0200, subpart 6, in all 300 series deer permit areas, a legal buck is defined as a deer with a minimum of four antler points on at least one antler. Bucks with fewer antler points than the minimum defined points are protected and not legal for harvest. Youth hunters, age 10 to 17, are exempt from this part.