

H.F. No. _____, S.F. No. _____, as introduced - 89th Legislature (2015-2016)

HOUSE AND SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
EIGHTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE H.F. No. _____, S.F. No. _____

A bill for an act
relating to lawful gambling and to game and fish; placing restrictions on contests with prizes for the
taking of wild animals;
proposing a revision to current law in Minnesota Statutes, section 349.173
and proposing new law in Minnesota Statutes, section 97B.116.

This bill shall be known as the Minnesota "Hunting Contest Bill."

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

Section 1. [349.173] CONDUCT OF RAFFLES.

Minnesota Statutes Section 349.173, item c, is deleted and replaced by the following:

(c) An organization that is authorized by the Gambling Control Board to conduct raffles may conduct a raffle in conjunction with a fishing contest that is allowed under Section 97C.081 or a hunting contest that is allowed under Section 97B.116. The organization may not conduct a raffle in conjunction with a fishing contest that is not allowed under Section 97C.081 or a hunting contest that is not allowed under Section 97B.116. For a raffle that is allowed under this Section, a raffle ticket may be sold either separate from, or combined with, a hunting-contest entry fee. A combined ticket must itemize the costs of the raffle ticket and the hunting-contest entry fee. All other provisions of sections 349.11 to 349.23 apply to the raffle.

Section 2. [97B.116] HUNTING CONTESTS.

Subdivision 1. Restrictions.

(a) A person may not conduct a hunting contest on lands or waters except as provided in this section.

(b) A person may not conduct a hunting contest that allows any illegal activity, including any violation of Sections 97A through 97C.

(c) A person may not conduct a public hunting contest if:

(1) the number of target animals that may be legally taken by a participant on any day of the public hunting contest is unlimited; or

(2) one or more of the target animals are unprotected wild animals.

Subd. 2. (Empty).

[Intentionally left blank to match the numbering of Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 3. Contests requiring a permit.

(a) A person must have a permit from the commissioner to conduct a public hunting contest if the total value of all prizes is more than \$500.

(b) *(permit-fee requirements*

[Same as Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

(c) *(financial requirements*

[Same as Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 3A. Contests without a permit.

Subject to subdivision 1, a person may conduct a public hunting contest without a permit from the commissioner if the total value of all prizes is \$500 or less.

Subd. 4. Restrictions.

(a) The commissioner may by rule establish restrictions on public hunting contests to protect game habitat, to restrict activities during high use periods, to restrict activities that affect research or management work, to restrict the number of contest participants, and for the safety of contest participants.

(b) By March 1, 2017, the commissioner shall develop a best practices certification program for public hunting contest organizers to ensure public safety and the proper treatment of game, other wildlife, and wildlife habitat during public hunting contests.

Subd. 5. (Empty).

[Intentionally left blank to match the numbering of Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 6. Permit application process.

[Same as Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 7. Weekend limitations.

(a) *The commissioner may ensure that, on at least two weekends per month on a given unit of public land, no permitted public hunting contest is scheduled.*

(b) *Unless otherwise authorized by the commissioner, permitted public hunting contests that are conducted for more than one day may not include more than one weekend day from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.*

(c) *The commissioner may not approve permits for public hunting contests on a weekend with a hunting season opener for one or more of the target animals.*

Subd. 8. (Empty).

[Intentionally left blank to match the numbering of Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 8A. Additional public hunting contest permits.

[Same as Section 97C.081: Fishing Contests.]

Subd. 9. Permit restrictions.

- (a) The commissioner may require permit restrictions on the hours that a permitted public hunting contest is conducted, including, but not limited to, starting and ending times.
- (b) To prevent waste, the commissioner may require restrictions for off-site weigh-ins or field dressing prior to weigh-in on a public hunting contest permit, or may deny permits that do not require off-site weigh-in or field dressing prior to weigh-in. The commissioner may allow for weigh-ins at public accesses.
- (c) A person may not transfer a public hunting contest permit to another person.
- (d) Failure to comply with public hunting contest permit restrictions may be considered grounds for denial of future permit applications.

Subd. 10. Definitions. For purposes of this section, the following terms have the meanings given:

- (a) "Entry Fee" means a payment qualifying a participant to take part in an event.
- (b) "Hunting Contest" means an event that involves the taking of target animals, in which a participant is awarded a prize. It does not mean a wildlife-removal operation.
- (c) "Off-site weigh-in" means a weigh-in of one or more target animals at or near the place where those animals are taken, rather than at a central weigh-in site of the event.
- (d) "Participant" means a person who takes part in an event, or a group of people who collectively take part in an event.
- (e) "Permitted Public Hunting Contest" means a public hunting contest that requires a permit from the commissioner under subdivision 3.
- (f) "Permitted Public Hunting Contest Day" means a day on a given area where a permitted public hunting contest is held. Two permitted public hunting contests that are held on the same area on the same day count as two permitted public hunting contest days.
- (g) "Private Hunting Contest" means a hunting contest that is not a publicly-announced event.
- (h) "Prize" means cash, goods, or services with a value of more than \$25 awarded to a participant as part of an event. It does not mean a payment for a wildlife-removal operation.
- (i) "Public Hunting Contest" means a hunting contest that is a publicly-announced event.
- (j) "Publicly-Announced Event" means an organized activity that is described in a publicly-available information source.
- (k) "Target Animals" means game or unprotected wild animals that are taken as part of an event.
- (l) "Wildlife-Removal Operation" means an event that involves the taking of target animals in which all participants who provide wildlife-removal services are paid for those services

[The terms "game," "unprotected wild animals," and "taking" are defined in section 97A.015.]