

House File 552 - Enrolled

House File 552

AN ACT

RELATING TO REQUIREMENTS FOR USING A DOG TO TRACK A WOUNDED  
DEER.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

Section 1. Section 481A.56A, Code 2021, is amended to read  
as follows:

**481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer by leashed dogs.**

A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer  
hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use  
a dog to track and retrieve the wounded deer. ~~A dog being  
used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for  
tracking a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood  
tracking.~~ An unarmed dog handler assisting in the recovery  
of a wounded deer is exempt from the licensing requirements  
as long as the handler is associated with the licensed hunter  
who wounded the deer. Any person using a dog for tracking  
wounded deer must maintain physical control of the dog at all  
times during the search by means of a maximum fifty-foot lead  
attached to the dog's collar or harness. The person licensed  
hunter who wounded the deer may dispatch the deer using a  
legal method of take authorized by the person's deer hunting  
license consistent with all rules and regulations for that  
season. A person shall not use ~~that method of take to~~ chase,  
hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that the  
hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Using a dog to  
track a wounded deer on private property is permissible ~~at any~~

~~hour~~ with consent of the property owner. A person using a dog to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device. The commission ~~shall~~ may adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to implement [this section](#).

---

PAT GRASSLEY  
Speaker of the House

---

JAKE CHAPMAN  
President of the Senate

I hereby certify that this bill originated in the House and is known as House File 552, Eighty-ninth General Assembly.

---

MEGHAN NELSON  
Chief Clerk of the House

Approved \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

---

KIM REYNOLDS  
Governor