

**House File 2455 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 2455  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 657)

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 363)

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act allowing the use of a leashed dog to track and retrieve  
2 a wounded deer and providing a penalty.  
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer  
2 by leashed dogs.

3 A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer  
4 hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use  
5 a dog to track and retrieve the wounded deer. A dog being  
6 used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for  
7 tracking a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood  
8 tracking. Any person using a dog for tracking wounded deer  
9 must maintain physical control of the dog at all times during  
10 the search by means of a maximum fifty-foot lead attached to  
11 the dog's collar or harness. The person may dispatch the deer  
12 using a legal method of take authorized by the person's deer  
13 hunting license. A person shall not use that method of take  
14 to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that  
15 the hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Using a dog  
16 to track a wounded deer on private property is permissible at  
17 any hour with consent of the property owner. When using a dog  
18 to track a wounded deer on land designated for public hunting,  
19 tracking shall be restricted to 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for  
20 a morning hunt and shall be restricted to no earlier than  
21 forty-five minutes after sunset to two hours before the opening  
22 of morning hunting for an evening hunt. A person using a dog  
23 to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours  
24 shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device.  
25 The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to  
26 implement this section.

27 Sec. 2. Section 805.8B, subsection 3, Code 2020, is amended  
28 by adding the following new paragraph:

29 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. For violations of section 481A.56A, the  
30 scheduled fine is two hundred fifty dollars.

31 EXPLANATION

32 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with  
33 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

34 This bill creates new Code section 481A.56A to allow a hunter  
35 with a valid hunting license and deer hunting license who

1 wounds a deer while hunting to use a dog to track and retrieve  
2 the wounded deer. The bill provides that a dog being used for  
3 tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for tracking a  
4 wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood tracking. Any  
5 person using a dog for tracking a wounded deer must maintain  
6 physical control of the dog at all times during the search by  
7 means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached to the dog's collar  
8 or harness. The person may dispatch the deer using a legal  
9 method of take authorized by the person's valid deer hunting  
10 license. The bill provides that a person may use a dog to track  
11 a wounded deer on private property at any time with the consent  
12 of the property owner. The bill allows a person to use a dog  
13 to track a wounded deer on land designated for public hunting  
14 only during designated hours. The bill prohibits a person  
15 from possessing a firearm or archery device when using a dog  
16 to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours.  
17 The bill directs the natural resource commission to adopt  
18 rules pursuant to Code chapter 17A to implement the bill's  
19 provisions.

20 A violation of the bill's provisions is punishable by a  
21 scheduled fine of \$250.