

**House File 657 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 657  
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL  
RESOURCES

(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 certified 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 to  
14 hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that the  
15 hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Tracking a wounded  
16 deer is permissible at night, but no person tracking a wounded  
17 deer shall be in possession of a firearm or archery device  
18 outside of legal deer hunting hours. A person shall obtain  
19 permission from the owner or tenant of private property before  
20 using a dog to track a wounded deer on the private property.  
21 The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to  
22 implement this section.

23 Sec. 2. Section 805.8B, subsection 3, Code 2019, is amended  
24 by adding the following new paragraph:

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

27

EXPLANATION

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

30 This bill creates new Code section 481A.56A to allow a  
31 hunter with a valid hunting license and deer hunting license  
32 who wounds a deer while hunting to use a dog to track and  
33 retrieve the wounded deer. The bill provides that a dog being  
34 used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog  
35 for tracking a wounded deer shall both be certified in deer

1 blood tracking. Any person using a dog for tracking a wounded  
2 deer must maintain physical control of the dog at all times  
3 during the search by means of a maximum 50-foot lead attached  
4 to the dog's collar or harness. The person may dispatch the  
5 deer using a legal method of take authorized by the person's  
6 valid deer hunting license. The bill provides that a person  
7 must obtain permission from the owner or tenant before using a  
8 dog to track a wounded deer on private property, and that the  
9 natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant to Code  
10 chapter 17A to implement the bill's provisions.

11 A violation of the new provisions is punishable by a  
12 scheduled fine of \$250.