

House File 23 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 23

BY HOLT

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to requirements for using a dog to track a
2 wounded deer.

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

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

3 **481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer by leashed dogs.**

4 A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer
5 hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use
6 a dog to track and retrieve the wounded deer. ~~A dog being
7 used for tracking a wounded deer and a person using a dog for
8 tracking a wounded deer shall both be trained in deer blood
9 tracking.~~ Any person using a dog for tracking wounded deer
10 must maintain physical control of the dog at all times during
11 the search by means of a maximum fifty-foot lead attached to
12 the dog's collar or harness. The person may dispatch the deer
13 using a legal method of take authorized by the person's deer
14 hunting license. A person shall not use that method of take
15 to hunt, wound, or kill any animal other than the deer that
16 the hunter is tracking, except in self-defense. Using a dog
17 to track a wounded deer on private property is permissible at
18 any hour with consent of the property owner. A person using a
19 dog to track a wounded deer outside of legal deer hunting hours
20 shall not be in possession of a firearm or archery device.
21 The commission shall adopt rules pursuant to [chapter 17A](#) to
22 implement [this section](#).

23

EXPLANATION

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

26 This bill relates to requirements for using a dog to track a
27 wounded deer. The bill strikes a provision in current law that
28 requires the dog used for tracking a wounded deer and a person
29 using a dog for tracking a wounded deer to both be trained in
30 deer blood tracking.