

House File 2365 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2365
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 2180)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the retrieval of wounded deer by use of a
2 registered unmanned aerial vehicle, and providing penalties.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. 481A.56B Retrieval of wounded deer
2 by use of a registered unmanned aerial vehicle.

3 1. A person having a valid hunting license and a valid deer
4 hunting license who has wounded a deer while hunting may use a
5 registered unmanned aerial vehicle to track and retrieve the
6 wounded deer. The person may dispatch the deer using a legal
7 method of take authorized by the person's deer hunting license
8 consistent with all rules and regulations for that season.
9 A person shall not use that method of take to hunt, wound,
10 or kill any animal other than the deer that the hunter is
11 tracking, except in self-defense. Using a registered unmanned
12 aerial vehicle on private property is permissible at any hour
13 with consent of the property owner.

14 2. All unmanned aerial vehicles must be registered with
15 the department of natural resources and the federal aviation
16 administration. The commission shall implement a registration
17 procedure for unmanned aerial vehicles to be used in wounded
18 deer recovery. The registration requirements must comply
19 with the federal aviation administration regulations. The
20 commission shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 17A to
21 implement this section.

22 Sec. 2. Section 481A.125A, Code 2024, is amended by adding
23 the following new subsection:

24 NEW SUBSECTION. 5. This section does not apply to the use
25 of a registered unmanned aerial vehicles to retrieve a wounded
26 deer under section 481A.56B.

27 Sec. 3. Section 805.8B, subsection 3, paragraph r, Code
28 2024, is amended to read as follows:

29 r. For violations of section sections 481A.56A and 481A.56B,
30 the 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 allows a person with a valid hunting license and
35 deer hunting license who wounds a deer while hunting to use a

1 registered unmanned aerial vehicle to track and retrieve the
2 wounded deer. The person may dispatch the deer using a legal
3 method of take authorized by the person's valid deer hunting
4 license. The bill provides that a person may use a registered
5 unmanned aerial vehicle to track a wounded deer on private
6 property at any time with the consent of the property owner.

7 Persons must register the unmanned aerial vehicle for
8 wounded deer retrieval with the department of natural resources
9 and the federal aviation administration. The natural resource
10 commission (NRC) is directed to create a registration process
11 that complies with the federal aviation administration's
12 regulations for unmanned aerial vehicles. The bill directs NRC
13 to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions.

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