

House Study Bill 553 - Introduced

SENATE/HOUSE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL RESOURCES BILL)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to natural resources, including office locations
2 of the director of natural resources, state park user fee
3 pilot programs, the delegation of powers and duties concerning
4 state preserves, and age requirements for hunting deer with
5 pistols or revolvers.

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

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1 Section 1. Section 455A.4, subsection 1, paragraph h, Code
2 2026, is amended to read as follows:

3 h. Maintain an office at or near the state capitol complex,
4 which ~~is~~ office shall be open at all reasonable times for the
5 conduct of public business.

6 Sec. 2. Section 456A.14, Code 2026, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **456A.14 Temporary appointments — peace officer status.**

9 The director may appoint temporary officers for a period not
10 to exceed six months and may adopt minimum physical, educational,
11 mental, and moral requirements for the temporary officers.
12 Chapter 80B does not apply to the temporary officers. Temporary
13 officers have all the powers of peace officers in the enforcement
14 of this chapter and chapters 321G, 321I, 456B, 461A, 461B, 462A,
15 462B, 465C, 481A, 481B, 482, 483A, 484A, and 484B, ~~sections~~
16 ~~455A.14A and 455A.14B,~~ and the trespass laws.

17 Sec. 3. Section 465C.8, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2026, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 The ~~department~~ commission shall have the following powers and
20 duties with respect to this chapter:

21 Sec. 4. Section 465C.9, Code 2026, is amended to read as
22 follows:

23 **465C.9 Articles of dedication.**

24 1. The public agency or private owner shall complete articles
25 of dedication on forms approved by the ~~department~~ commission.
26 When the articles of dedication have been approved by the
27 governor, the ~~department~~ commission shall record them with the
28 county recorder for the county or counties in which the area is
29 located.

30 2. The articles of dedication may contain restrictions
31 on development, sale, transfer, method of management, public
32 access, and commercial or other use, and may contain such
33 other provisions as may be necessary to further the purposes
34 of this chapter. ~~They~~ The articles may define the respective
35 jurisdictions of the owner or operating agency and the ~~department~~

1 commission. ~~They~~ The articles may provide procedures to be
2 applied in case of violation of the dedication. ~~They~~ The
3 articles may recognize reversionary rights. ~~They~~ The articles
4 may vary in provisions from one preserve to another in accordance
5 with differences in relative conditions.

6 Sec. 5. Section 465C.10, Code 2026, is amended to read as
7 follows:

8 **465C.10 When dedicated as a preserve.**

9 An area shall become a preserve when it has been approved by
10 the ~~department~~ commission for dedication as a preserve, whether
11 in public or private ownership, formally dedicated as a preserve
12 within the system by a public agency or private owner, and
13 designated by the governor as a preserve.

14 Sec. 6. Section 465C.11, Code 2026, is amended to read as
15 follows:

16 **465C.11 Area held in trust.**

17 1. An area designated as a preserve within the system is
18 hereby declared put to its highest, best, and most important
19 use for public benefit. It shall be held in trust and shall
20 not be alienated except to another public use upon a finding
21 by the ~~department~~ commission of imperative and unavoidable
22 public necessity and with the approval of ~~the commission,~~ the
23 general assembly by concurrent resolution, and the governor.
24 The ~~department's~~ commission's interest or interests in any
25 area designated as a preserve shall not be taken under the
26 condemnation statutes of this state without such a finding of
27 imperative and unavoidable public necessity by the ~~department~~
28 commission, and with the consent of ~~the commission,~~ the general
29 assembly by concurrent resolution, and the governor.

30 2. The ~~department~~ commission, with the approval of the
31 governor, may enter into amendments to any articles of dedication
32 upon its finding that such amendment will not permit an
33 impairment, disturbance, or development of the area inconsistent
34 with the purposes of this chapter.

35 3. Before the ~~department~~ commission shall make a finding

1 of imperative and unavoidable public necessity, or shall enter
2 into any amendment to articles of dedication, the ~~department~~
3 commission shall provide notice of such proposal and opportunity
4 for any person to be heard. Such notice shall be published
5 at least once in a newspaper with a general circulation in
6 the county or counties wherein the area directly affected is
7 situated, and mailed within ten days of such published notice
8 to all persons who have requested notice of all such proposed
9 actions. Each notice shall set forth the substance of the
10 proposed action and describe, with or without legal description,
11 the area affected, and shall set forth a place and time not less
12 than sixty days thence for all persons desiring to be heard to
13 have reasonable opportunity to be heard prior to the finding of
14 the ~~department~~ commission.

15 Sec. 7. Section 481A.48, subsection 5, Code 2026, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 5. The commission shall establish one or more pistol or
18 revolver seasons for hunting deer as separate firearm seasons or
19 to coincide with one or more other firearm deer hunting seasons.
20 Any pistol or revolver with a barrel length of at least four
21 inches and firing straight wall or other centerfire ammunition
22 propelling an expanding-type bullet with a maximum diameter of
23 no less than three hundred fifty thousandths of one inch and
24 no larger than five hundred thousandths of one inch and with a
25 published or calculated muzzle energy of five hundred foot pounds
26 or higher is legal for hunting deer during the pistol or revolver
27 seasons. The commission shall adopt rules to allow black powder
28 pistols or revolvers for hunting deer. The rules may limit types
29 of projectiles. A person who is ~~twenty years of age or less~~
30 under the age of eighteen shall not hunt deer with a pistol
31 or revolver unless that person is accompanied and under direct
32 supervision throughout the hunt by a responsible person with a
33 valid hunting license ~~who is at least twenty-one years of age,~~
34 ~~with the consent of a parent, guardian, or spouse who is at least~~
35 ~~twenty-one years of age,~~ pursuant to section 724.22, subsection

1 ~~4. The responsible person with a valid hunting license who is~~
2 ~~at least twenty-one years of age shall be responsible for the~~
3 ~~conveyance of the pistol or revolver while the pistol or revolver~~
4 ~~is not actively being used for hunting. A person possessing~~
5 a prohibited pistol or revolver while hunting deer commits a
6 scheduled violation under section 805.8B, subsection 3, paragraph
7 "h", subparagraph (5).

8 Sec. 8. Section 805.8C, subsection 14, Code 2026, is amended
9 by striking the subsection.

10

EXPLANATION

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The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with

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the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill relates to natural resources, including office
14 locations for the director of the department of natural
15 resources, state park user fee pilot programs, the delegation
16 of powers and duties concerning state preserves, and age
17 requirements for hunting deer with pistols or revolvers.

18 The bill removes references to the Lake Manawa and Waubonsie
19 state park user fee pilot programs that repealed by their own
20 terms on December 31, 2025.

21 Under current law, the director of the department of natural
22 resources (DNR) must maintain an office at the state capitol.
23 The bill allows the office to be at or near the state capitol.

24 Under current law, DNR has certain powers and duties regarding
25 state preserves. The bill transfers all these powers and duties
26 to the natural resource commission.

27 Under current law, a person who is 20 years of age or less
28 is not allowed to hunt deer with a pistol or revolver unless
29 accompanied by person who is at least 21 years of age with
30 a valid hunting license and with the consent of a parent,
31 guardian, or spouse who is at least 21 years of age. The bill
32 changes the age threshold from 20 years of age or less to under
33 the age of 18. The bill also makes corresponding changes to
34 supervision requirements by allowing a person who is 18 years old
35 or older with a valid hunting license and the required consent

S.F. _____ H.F. _____

1 to supervise a person under the age of 18 in hunting deer with a
2 pistol or revolver with certain limitations.

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