

Senate File 260 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 260
BY COMMITTEE ON NATURAL
RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 1093)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to wildlife, including the treatment of beaver
2 dams, identification for traps, snares, and tree stands,
3 and maximum fur dealer license fees, and making penalties
4 applicable.

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

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **481A.41 Tree stands for hunting**
2 **deer on public land — identification — prohibition.**

3 1. A person shall not place a tree stand for hunting deer on
4 public land unless the stand is affixed with and exhibits a metal
5 plate that plainly shows the department-issued identification
6 number of the owner of the stand. A person who fails to properly
7 identify a tree stand placed on public land belonging to the
8 person is subject to a scheduled fine under section 805.8B,
9 subsection 3, paragraph "b".

10 2. An owner of a tree stand placed on public land shall
11 not be held liable for damage to personal property or an injury
12 resulting from another person's use of the tree stand.

13 3. The natural resource commission shall adopt rules pursuant
14 to chapter 17A to implement this section.

15 Sec. 2. Section 481A.90, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 2. This section does not prohibit the owner, the owner's
18 agent, or a drainage district from destroying a den or breaching
19 or altering a beaver dam to protect the owner's property.

20 Sec. 3. Section 481A.92, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 1. A person shall not use or attempt to use colony traps in
23 taking, capturing, trapping, or killing any game or fur-bearing
24 animals except muskrats as determined by rule of the commission.
25 Box traps capable of capturing more than one game or fur-bearing
26 animal at each setting are prohibited. A valid hunting license
27 is required for box trapping cottontail rabbits and squirrels.
28 All traps and snares used for the taking of fur-bearing animals
29 shall have a metal tag attached plainly labeled with the user's
30 department-issued identification number or name and address. All
31 traps and snares, except those ~~which~~ that are placed entirely
32 under water, shall be checked at least once every twenty-four
33 hours. Officers appointed by the department may confiscate such
34 traps and snares found in use that are not properly labeled or
35 checked.

1 Sec. 4. Section 481A.95, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
2 by striking the subsection and inserting in lieu thereof the
3 following:

4 2. Fees for a license issued under this section shall be no
5 more than fifty dollars annually for a resident or a nonresident
6 fur dealer.

7 Sec. 5. Section 805.8B, subsection 3, paragraph b, Code 2025,
8 is amended to read as follows:

9 b. For violations of section 481A.41, subsection 1, sections
10 481A.54, 481A.69, 481A.71, 481A.72, 482.6, 483A.3, 483A.6,
11 483A.8A, 483A.19, 483A.27, and 483A.27A, the scheduled fine is
12 thirty dollars.

13 EXPLANATION

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

16 This bill relates to wildlife, including the treatment of
17 beaver dams, identification for traps, snares, and tree stands,
18 and maximum fur dealer license fees.

19 The bill requires that a stand placed on public land for
20 hunting deer be affixed with and exhibit a metal plate that
21 plainly shows the department-issued identification number of the
22 owner of the stand. An owner who does not properly identify
23 a tree stand placed on public land belonging to the owner is
24 subject to a scheduled fine of \$30. The bill provides that an
25 owner of a tree stand placed on public land shall not be held
26 liable for damage to personal property or an injury resulting
27 from another person's use of the tree stand. The natural
28 resource commission shall adopt rules to implement the provisions
29 of the bill relating to tree stands.

30 Under current law, a person is generally prohibited from
31 disturbing, in any manner, any den, lodge, or house of a
32 fur-bearing animal or beaver dam except with written permission
33 of an officer appointed by the director. The bill allows
34 a property owner, the property owner's agent, or a drainage
35 district to breach or alter a beaver dam to protect the person's

1 property.

2 Under current law, all traps and snares used for the taking
3 of fur-bearing animals require a metal tag attached plainly
4 labeled with the user's name and address. The bill allows the
5 user the option of labeling the trap or snare with the user's
6 department-issued identification number instead of the user's
7 name and address.

8 The bill creates a maximum fur dealer license fee of \$50,
9 regardless of resident status. Under current administrative
10 rules, a resident fur dealer license costs \$264 annually and a
11 nonresident fur dealer license costs \$586.50 annually or \$292.50
12 for one day and one location. Current law allows residents from
13 another state to purchase a fur dealer license for the set fee
14 unless that state has reciprocity with Iowa, in which case the
15 nonresident shall pay the reciprocity fee amount that is less
16 than the nonresident license fee but more than the Iowa resident
17 license fee.