

CHAPTER 1096

DEER HUNTING — USE OF LEASHED DOGS

H.F. 2455

AN ACT allowing the use of a leashed dog to track and retrieve a wounded deer and providing a penalty.

Be It Enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

Section 1. **NEW SECTION. 481A.56A Retrieval of wounded deer by leashed dogs.**

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

Sec. 2. [Section 805.8B, subsection 3](#), Code 2020, is amended by adding the following new paragraph:

NEW PARAGRAPH. *r.* For violations of [section 481A.56A](#), the scheduled fine is two hundred fifty dollars.

Approved June 25, 2020