



## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

**2003 Assembly Bill 291**

**Assembly  
Amendment 1**

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### **Assembly Bill 291**

Current law requires a person to obtain a contract or a permit from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in order to remove materials from the bed of a navigable lake or stream. Assembly Bill 291 allows DNR to issue annual permits for the panning of gold for a \$50 fee. Under the bill, a person who holds a permit to pan for gold may only pan for gold using a hand-held pan, and may not pan for gold in self-sustaining trout streams or other waters of the state that DNR designates by rule as incompatible with gold panning.

DNR rules may establish seasons when gold panning is not allowed, in order to protect fish spawning and nursery areas. DNR may regulate methods of panning for gold to ensure that panning for gold does not obstruct navigation or interfere with public rights in navigable waters.

### **Assembly Amendment 1**

Assembly Amendment 1 requires DNR to submit proposed rules to the Legislative Council Rules Clearinghouse for review no later than three years after the legislation is published. The authorization for DNR to issue a permit takes effect 3-1/2 years after the legislation is published.

### **Legislative History**

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representative Pettis. Assembly Amendment 1 was adopted by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on a vote of Ayes, 7; Noes, 3. The Assembly Committee on Natural Resources recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 4.

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