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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ... PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS

2005-06

(session year)

Senate

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation...

COMMITTEE NOTICES ...

- Committee Reports ... **CR**
- Executive Sessions ... **ES**
- Public Hearings ... **PH**

INFORMATION COLLECTED BY COMMITTEE FOR AND AGAINST PROPOSAL

- Appointments ... **Appt** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Clearinghouse Rules ... **CRule** (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
- Hearing Records ... bills and resolutions (w/Record of Comm. Proceedings)
(**ab** = Assembly Bill) (**ar** = Assembly Resolution) (**ajr** = Assembly Joint Resolution)
(**sb** = Senate Bill) (**sr** = Senate Resolution) (**sjr** = Senate Joint Resolution)
- Miscellaneous ... **Misc**

* Contents organized for archiving by: Stefanie Rose (LRB) (June 2012)

Senate

Record of Committee Proceedings

Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation

Assembly Bill 131

Relating to: trapping licenses and permits issued to certain nonresidents.

By Representatives Gunderson, Moulton, Pettis, Ainsworth, Gronemus, Hahn, Hines, Jeskewitz, Lothian, Ott, Petrowski, Towns and Townsend; cosponsored by Senators Olsen, Cowles and Grothman.

November 11, 2005 Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation.

February 22, 2006 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (3) Senators Kedzie, Wirsch and Breske.

Absent: (2) Senators Stepp and Kapanke.

Appearances For

- John Olson — WI Department of Natural Resources
- Virgil Schroeder, Cottage Grove — WI Trappers Association
- Scott Gunderson — State Representative, 83rd Assembly District

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- Luther Olsen — Senator, 14th Senate District
- George Meyer — WI Wildlife Federation
- Kathi Kilgore — WI Innkeepers Association

Registrations Against

- None.

February 22, 2006 **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirsch and Breske.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Breske, seconded by Senator Wirch that **Assembly Bill 131** be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (5) Senators Kedzie, Stepp, Kapanke, Wirch and Breske.

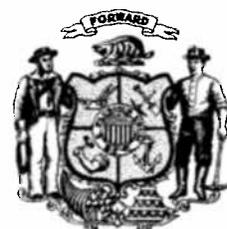
Noes: (0) None.

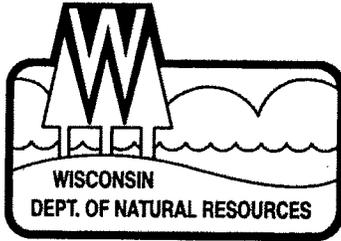
CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 5, Noes 0

Dan Johnson
Committee Clerk



WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE





State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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February 22, 2006

Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Transportation
Madison, WI 53708

Subject: AB 131 – NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSE

HONORABLE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE. MY NAME IS JOHN OLSON AND AS THE FURBEARER SPECIALIST, AM HERE TODAY TO REPRESENT THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES IN BEHALF OF THE BUREAU OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE INPUT INTO THIS IMPORTANT LEGISLATION.

WISCONSIN HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN FOR ITS PROACTIVE FURBEARER PROGRAMS, INCLUDING COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT EFFORTS WITH THE WISCONSIN CONSERVATION CONGRESS, WISCONSIN TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION, UNIVERSITY SYSTEMS, CHIPPEWA TRIBES, AND INTERESTED PUBLIC. THE STATE OF WISCONSIN IS WELL KNOWN FOR ITS DIVERSE AND BOUNTIFUL NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING A MIX OF UP TO 19 DIFFERENT SPECIES OF FURBEARERS. WISCONSIN IS BLESSED WITH ABUNDANT FURBEARER POPULATIONS THAT OFTEN ALLOW FOR LIMITED, HIGHLY REGULATED HARVESTS, BASED ON SOUND SCIENCE AND STRICTLY ENFORCED BY HIGHLY TRAINED CONSERVATION WARDENS.

ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WISCONSIN FURBEARERS HAVE A REPUTATION FOR BEING SOME OF THE FINEST QUALITY PELTS IN NORTH AMERICA. AS A

RESULT, RESIDENTS OF WISCONSIN HAVE ALWAYS MAINTAINED A STRONG OWNERSHIP AND INTEREST IN OUR FURBEARER PROGRAM. WISCONSIN HAS THE LARGEST STATEWIDE TRAPPER ASSOCIATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND LEADS THE NATION IN BEING THE MOST PROACTIVE AS WELL.

FOR YEARS INDIVIDUALS HAVE SOUGHT OPPORTUNITIES FOR NON-RESIDENT TRAPPERS IN WISCONSIN, AND FOR WISCONSIN TRAPPERS IN OTHER STATES. FEAR OF THE UNKNOWN, LACK OF INTEREST IN SHARING, AND CONCERNS OVER NON-RESIDENT BEHAVIOR WERE THE LEADING ISSUES CONCERNING NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING. A SPECIFIC QUESTION ASKING FOR SUPPORT FOR A NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSE WAS DEFEATED BY A 2 TO 1 MARGIN AT THE 2000 STATEWIDE CONSERVATION CONGRESS MEETING. THE WISCONSIN TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION ALSO CONDUCTED A SERIES OF MEMBERSHIP SURVEYS. EARLIER SURVEYS REJECTED THE CONCEPT, HOWEVER RECENT SURVEYS SHOWED SUPPORT IF THE NON-RESIDENT LICENSE INCLUDED TRAPPER EDUCATION, RECIPROCITY, APPROPRIATE LICENSE FEES, AND ACCESS RESTRICTIONS TO LIMITED DRAW SPECIES. SOON YOU WILL HEAR FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE WISCONSIN TRAPPERS ASSOCIATION AND RECEIVE WRITTEN TESTIMONY FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WISCONSIN WILDLIFE FEDERATION, BOTH IN SUPPORT.

THE DEPARTMENT, CHARGED WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT AND ENHANCE NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE PUBLIC, REFERRED TO THE SCIENCE AND SAW NO PROBLEMS. HOWEVER, WHEN LOOKING AT THE SOCIO-POLITICAL WORLD, THE DEPARTMENT NOTICED THERE WERE CONCERNS. THESE CONCERNS HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED IN THIS BILL.

AB 131 CREATES A NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSE WITH PROVISIONS REQUIRING

THE WISCONSIN DNR TO ISSUE THIS LICENSE TO A NON-RESIDENT WHO SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES A TRAPPER EDUCATION COURSE ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT, OR A SIMILAR COURSE ADMINISTERED FROM ANOTHER STATE. THE FEE WOULD BE \$149.25, EXCLUDING ISSUANCE FEES.

TRAPPER EDUCATION

THE INCLUSION OF THE TRAPPER EDUCATION REQUIREMENT IS MORE THAN WONDERFUL, IT'S EXCELLENT (!), AND ASSURES US THAT NON-RESIDENT TRAPPERS IN WISCONSIN WOULD HAVE A STRONG BACKGROUND IN BIOLOGY, NATURAL HISTORY, RULES AND REGULATIONS, TRAPPER ETHICS, LANDOWNER RIGHTS, AND TRAPPER RESPONSIBILITY. THE ISSUANCE FEE OF \$149.25 IS COMPARABLE WITH THE AVERAGE FOR MIDWESTERN STATES THAT ALLOW NONRESIDENT TRAPPING, THIS AVERAGE BEING \$150.47.

RECIPROCITY.

THIS BILL ALLOWS FOR RECIPROCITY WITH OTHER STATES, AN IMPORTANT PROVISION FOR WISCONSIN RESIDENTS. OF THE 49 STATES THAT ALLOW TRAPPING, THERE ARE ONLY THREE THAT RESTRICT NON-RESIDENTS ALL TOGETHER - WISCONSIN, MINNESOTA AND SOUTH DAKOTA. OF THE 46 STATES THAT ALLOW NON-RESIDENTS TO TRAP, ROUGHLY TWO-THIRDS OF THESE STATES HAVE A RECIPROCITY REQUIREMENT WHICH MEANS WISCONSIN RESIDENTS CURRENTLY CANNOT TRAP IN THESE STATES.

IT'S ANTICIPATED THAT FEW ILLINOIS OR IOWA TRAPPERS WOULD HAVE INTEREST IN VENTURING INTO WISCONSIN. MINNESOTA DOES NOT ALLOW NON-RESIDENTS, SO THEY WOULD NOT BE ALLOWED IN WISCONSIN, AND DUE TO LICENSE COMPLICATIONS IN MICHIGAN, THERE APPEARS TO BE NO POTENTIAL MOVEMENT OF TRAPPERS FROM THEIR STATE INTO WISCONSIN. THUS, WE DO NOT EXPECT TO SEE ANY SUDDEN

INCREASE IN THE PRESENCE OF NON-RESIDENT TRAPPERS IN WISCONSIN. HOWEVER, BY PASSAGE OF THIS BILL, IT OPENS NUMEROUS OPPORTUNITIES FOR WISCONSIN TRAPPERS IN SEVERAL OTHER STATES.

LIMITED DRAW SPECIES

THIS BILL WOULD ALSO CONTROL NON-RESIDENT ACCESS TO LIMITED DRAW SPECIES, NAMELY BOBCAT, FISHER, AND OTTER. IN WISCONSIN, AS IN MANY OTHER STATES WITH SPECIES WHOSE HARVEST REQUIRES CLOSE MONITORING, THERE IS AN APPLICATION PROCESS, A DRAWING, AND AN ISSUANCE OF PERMITS TO SUCCESSFUL APPLICANTS. WISCONSIN TRAPPERS COVET THESE SPECIES AND THE SOMETIMES RARE PERMIT. AS AN EXAMPLE, A WISCONSIN RESIDENT NOW WAITS FOUR TO FIVE YEARS FOR A SINGLE BOBCAT PERMIT.

MANY OTHER STATES WITH NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING HAVE RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO LIMITED PERMITS. MANY BIG GAME HUNTERS ARE VERY FAMILIAR WITH WESTERN STATES THAT ALLOW NON-RESIDENT HUNTERS, BUT SEVERELY LIMIT NON-RESIDENT ACCESS TO PERMITS FOR CERTAIN SPECIES.

IN SUMMARY, THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO STUDY THIS PROPOSAL AND FOR THE OPPORTUNITY TO PRESENT OUR FINDINGS. WE SUPPORT A NON-RESIDENT TRAPPING LICENSE. BY INCLUDING RECIPROCITY, TRAPPER EDUCATION, A SIMILAR FEE STRUCTURE AND THE ABILITY TO CONTROL NON-RESIDENT ACCESS TO LIMITED-DRAW PERMITS, THIS ALLOWS THE DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE FURBEARER MANAGEMENT IN A REASONABLE, ACCEPTABLE MANNER, USING THE LATEST IN TECHNOLOGY AND SCIENCE, AND BALANCING SOCIO-POLITICAL NEEDS. THANK YOU.