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(FORM UPDATED: 08/11/2010)

**WISCONSIN STATE LEGISLATURE ...  
PUBLIC HEARING - COMMITTEE RECORDS**

**2009-10**

(session year)

**Senate**

(Assembly, Senate or Joint)

**Committee on ... Transportation, Tourism,  
Forestry, and Natural Resources (SC-TTFNR)**

**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**

## Senate

### Record of Committee Proceedings

#### **Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources**

##### **Assembly Bill 83**

Relating to: issuing annual fishing licenses to certain resident disabled veterans.

By Representatives Townsend, Berceau, Bernard Schaber, Bies, Brooks, Gunderson, Hraychuck, Hubler, Kaufert, Kestell, Lothian, Meyer, Mursau, Nerison, A. Ott, Petrowski, Pope-Roberts, Roth, Spanbauer, Suder and Vos; cosponsored by Senators Darling, Erpenbach, Hansen, Kedzie, Lazich, Lehman, Olsen, Schultz, Taylor and Vinehout.

June 25, 2009            Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

July 16, 2009            **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present:    (7)     Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent:    (0)     None.

##### Appearances For

- Matt Pulda — on behalf of Representative Townsend

##### Appearances Against

- None.

##### Appearances for Information Only

- None.

##### Registrations For

- Christine Jordan — County Veterans Service Officers Association
- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

##### Registrations Against

- None.

##### Registrations for Information Only

- None.

September 17, 2009    **EXECUTIVE SESSION HELD**

Present:    (7)     Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Absent: (0) None.

Moved by Senator Sullivan, seconded by Senator Leibham that **Assembly Bill 83** be recommended for concurrence.

Ayes: (7) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Plale, Hansen, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.

Noes: (0) None.

CONCURRENCE RECOMMENDED, Ayes 7, Noes 0

Elizabeth Novak  
Committee Clerk





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July 15, 2009

Senator Jim Holperin  
Chair, Committee on Transportation, Tourism,  
Forestry and Natural Resources  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7883

Via FAX to: 608-267-0309

Dear Senator Holperin:

I am writing as Legislative Chair of the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin. It is requested that this correspondence be added to the record as written testimony for the hearing scheduled for Assembly Bill 83 on July 16, 2009.

The County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin fully supports AB 83. This bill affords all veterans who are rated "individually unemployable" for service-related disabilities by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs the ability to obtain a reduced fee fishing license.

Current law grants this benefit only to veterans with a 70% or more service-disabled rating. It excludes certain veterans who have established that their 60% service-related disability renders them unemployable. (60% is the minimum rating allowed under federal law for which unemployability can be considered.) All veterans rated unemployable for service-related disabilities receive compensation payments at the 100% level.

In summary, the County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin heartily endorses AB 83 because it will grant the privilege of a reduced fee fishing license to all veterans rated 70% or more service-disabled, as well as those veterans rated unemployable due to service-related disabilities.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in written form to the record. It is respectfully requested that a copy of this correspondence be provided to the other members of your committee.

Sincerely,

*Chris Jordan*

Christine M. Jordan,  
Legislative Chair  
County Veterans Service Officers Association of Wisconsin



**TESTIMONY OF MATT PULDA  
ON BEHALF OF STATE REP. JOHN TOWNSEND  
IN FAVOR OF ASSEMBLY BILL 83  
JULY 16, 2009**

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members, for this opportunity to testify on behalf of Assembly Bill 83. My name is Matt Pulda, and I am Representative Townsend's research assistant. The Representative was not able to attend today's hearing because of a family medical issue.

Representative Townsend introduced AB 83 at the request of John Wertschnig, the director of the Fond du Lac County's veterans service office.

As you may know, current law permits veterans with a service-connected disability rating of at least 70 percent to obtain an annual fishing license for a discounted fee.

Mr. Wertschnig believed the law should be expanded to include veterans who receive disability compensation benefits because they have been deemed individually unemployable by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Our office also worked closely with the chair of the Wisconsin County Veterans Service Officers' legislative committee, Chris Jordan, the Walworth CVSO.

The CVSOs were inspired by 2007 Act 165, which expanded the criteria for disabled veterans who receive free admission to Wisconsin state parks. The Senate passed that law 33-0, and the Assembly concurred on a voice vote. Similarly, the Assembly Committee on Veterans and Military Affairs recommended AB 83 10-0, and the Assembly passed it on a voice vote in June.

Thank you for your time today, and I would be happy to answer any questions.