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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 470

Relating to: membership of the Natural Resources Board.

By Representatives Vruwink, Garthwaite, Black, Tauchen, Hubler, Radcliffe, Molepske Jr., Danou, Hebl, Strachota, A. Williams, Zepnick, Brooks and Nerison; cosponsored by Senator Schultz.

February 26, 2010 Referred to Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources.

March 10, 2010 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (5) Senators Holperin, Sullivan, Leibham, Kedzie and Grothman.
Absent: (2) Senators Plale and Hansen.

Appearances For

- George Meyer, Madison — Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

Appearances Against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations For

- George Klaetsch — WI Agribusiness Council
- Bob Welch — WI Corn Growers Association

Registrations Against

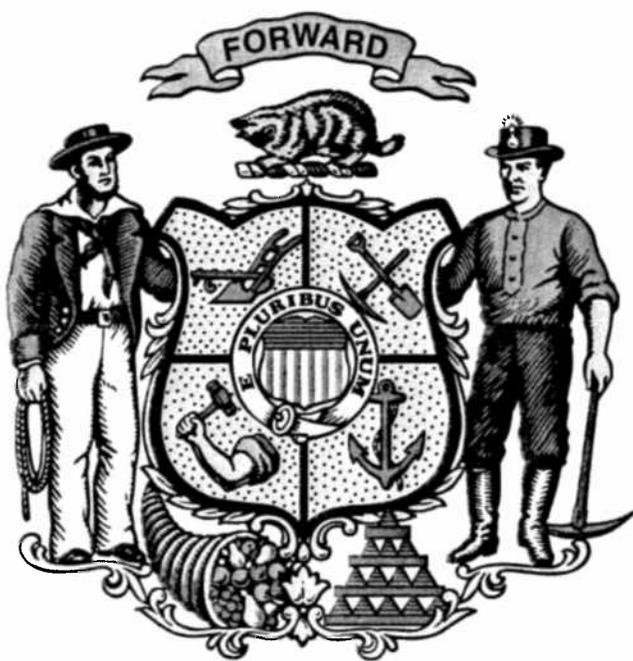
- None.

Registrations for Information Only

- None.

April 22, 2010 Failed to concur pursuant to Senate Joint Resolution 1.

Elizabeth Novak
Committee Clerk





**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2009 Assembly Bill 470	Assembly Amendment 1
<i>Memo published: March 3, 2010</i>	<i>Contact: Rachel E. Letzing, Senior Staff Attorney (266-3370)</i>

CURRENT LAW

Under current law, the Natural Resources Board consists of seven members nominated by the Governor and with the advice and consent of the Senate appointed for six-year terms. Current law requires that at least three of the members be from north, and at least three of the members be from south, of a line running east and west through the southern limits of the City of Stevens Point.

ASSEMBLY BILL 470

Beginning in May 2016, the bill requires that at least one member of the Natural Resources Board have an agricultural background. The Governor may request statewide agricultural organizations to submit recommendations for nominees.

ASSEMBLY AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Amendment 1 adds a new provision which requires that, beginning in May 2016, at least one member of the Natural Resources Board must be from a first class city.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Assembly Amendment 1 was offered by Representatives Colon, Zepnick, Cullen, Richards, Sinicki, Young, Grigsby, Toles, and Fields on February 23, 2010. On the same date, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended, on a voice vote.

REL:wu

Wisconsin Wildlife Federation

March 10
2010

Chairman Holperin and members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee, we are asking that you approve Assembly bills AB 470 and 495 introduced by Representatives Danou and Vruwink. We would like to thank those representatives and Rep. LeMahieu for their work on the issue of criterion for Natural Resource Board membership. AB 495 requires that at least three of the seven Board members must have had either hunting, fishing or trapping licenses at least seven out of the last ten years. AB 470 requires and that at least one of the Board members have an agricultural background. The Federation has been a strong supporter of these bills for several years.

AB 470---Hunting, fishing or trapping requirement. The proposed hunting, fishing and trapping license requirement in AB 470 has been met by the membership of the Natural Resources Board and its predecessor, the Conservation Commission, from 1928 through the membership of today's current Board. Today's NRB has four, possibly five, members that meet the licensing criteria. If that is the case, why is it important to pass this bill.

During my tenure as DNR Secretary, I had the opportunity to see what happened in fish and wildlife agencies in other states. Many of these agencies are governed by citizen boards similar to the DNR Board. As states have become more urbanized, there has been a trend for these boards to have more non-hunting, fishing and trapping members appointed to the boards. As a result they have actually adopted anti-hunting, fishing and trapping policies. This occurred in the State of Colorado, where the Colorado Division of Wildlife had a board at one point that was anti-hunting. I heard the absolute frustration of the professional resource managers in that Division on the difficulty of managing wildlife in that state with the anti-hunting composition of their citizen board. This also occurred at one point in the State of California. AB 470 will add protection to assure that this will not happen in Wisconsin.

AB 495---Agricultural requirement. The proposed agricultural background requirement has been met on the Natural Resources Board and its predecessor, the Conservation Commission, since at least the mid-1960s. From my personal experience during my tenure at the DNR I learned that it was very valuable to have a Board member with agricultural experience right at the table as the Board made decisions that had major impact on agriculture in the state. Their input was critical to deer management, nonpoint pollution regulations, woodlot forestry management, wetland regulations and many other critical programs at DNR. As an example, in the southern two-thirds of the state, the great majority of fish and wildlife habitat exists on private agricultural lands. Without the cooperation of farmers it is not possible to effectively manage fish and wildlife habitat in Wisconsin. That is true for many programs in DNR. Having the input and the knowledge of a Board member with agricultural background is critical to insure the success of the many programs that DNR has that impact agriculture.

For these reasons, the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation respectfully requests that you Approve AB 470 and AB 495 and send them to the full Senate for a vote.

Thank you for your consideration.

George Meyer
Executive Director
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation
March 10, 2010