



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 169
[2011 Senate Bill 411]

Hunting and Trapping of Wolves

2011 Wisconsin Act 169 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to establish an annual wolf harvesting season from October 15 through the month of February if the wolf is removed from the United States and Wisconsin lists of endangered and threatened species. Both state residents and nonresidents are eligible for licenses and a license authorizes both the hunting and trapping of wolves. If the number of people applying for a wolf harvesting license exceeds the number of licenses that will be issued, the DNR must issue 50% of the licenses at random and the remaining 50% of the licenses based on a cumulative preference system.

The Act requires the DNR to divide the state into wolf harvesting zones, requires that the zones be identified in the DNR's wolf management plan, and specifies that a wolf harvesting license authorizes hunting and trapping only in a specified zone. The DNR may limit the number of licenses issued and the number of wolves that may be harvested, and is authorized to close a wolf harvesting zone to both hunting and trapping of wolves if it determines that the closure is necessary to effectively manage the state's wolf population. The DNR may also close a zone to hunting of coyotes during a gun deer season if it determines that the closure is necessary to effectively manage the state's wolf population.

The Act allows the transfer of licenses and preference points under certain circumstances, specifies the types of firearms that may be used for wolf hunting, allows the use of dogs to hunt wolves for part of the season, allows the baiting of wolves with bait that is not an animal byproducts unless the animal byproduct is a liquid scent, allows hunting wolves at night for part of the season, and requires the DNR to authorize the use of cable restraints for trapping wolves. A person who kills a wolf must register the carcass with the DNR through a telephone or electronic registration system, or the DNR may require the person who kills a wolf to physically present the entire carcass to the DNR for registration.

The Act requires the DNR to administer a damage program under which payments may be made for death or injury caused by wolves to livestock, to hunting dogs other than those being used in the

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

hunting of wolves, and to pets, and to fund the program, during times when the wolf is not listed on the federal or state endangered species lists, with money collected as fees for wolf harvesting licenses. If, after making these payments, there is money remaining, the DNR may use it for wolf management and control activities.

Effective date: Act 169 took effect on April 17, 2012.

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