



2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 471

October 30, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives SKOWRONSKI, TITTL, T. LARSON, A. OTT, KNODL, MURSAU, BERCEAU, KRUG, EDMING, SINICKI, C. TAYLOR and BALLWEG. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

1 **AN ACT to amend** 29.983 (1) (a), 29.983 (1) (b) 9., 29.983 (1) (b) 10., 29.983 (1) (b)
2 11. and 29.983 (1) (b) 12.; and **to create** 29.983 (1) (c) of the statutes; **relating**
3 **to:** wild animal protection surcharges for game fish and a higher wild animal
4 protection surcharge for certain animals of a larger size.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if a court imposes a fine or forfeiture for the unlawful killing, wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of certain wild animals, the court may impose a wild animal protection surcharge. The statute specifies the amount of the surcharge allowed for each type of wild animal.

This bill allows a court to impose a higher wild animal protection surcharge when it imposes a fine or forfeiture for the unlawful killing, wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of a deer, elk, or bear that has a certain size of antlers or skull. The bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish a method for measuring the antler or skull size, and specifies the amount of the surcharge allowed for each animal. If both a regular and a higher wild animal protection surcharge are allowed, the bill requires a court to impose the higher surcharge.

The bill also increases the wild animal protection surcharges that may be imposed for different types of game fish.

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For further information see the *state and local* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

1 **SECTION 1.** 29.983 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 29.983 (1) (a) If a court imposes a fine or forfeiture for a violation of a provision
3 of this chapter or an order issued under this chapter for the unlawful killing,
4 wounding, catching, taking, trapping, or possession of a wild animal specified in par.
5 (b) or (c), or any part of such a wild animal, the court may impose a wild animal
6 protection surcharge under ch. 814 that equals the amount specified for the wild
7 animal under par. (b) or (c). The department shall establish a method for measuring
8 the size of the antlers of a deer or elk and the skull of a bear to determine whether
9 the wild animal protection surcharge amounts listed under par. (c) apply. If a wild
10 animal protection surcharge under both pars. (b) and (c) applies, the court shall use
11 the wild animal protection surcharge listed under par. (c).

12 **SECTION 2.** 29.983 (1) (b) 9. of the statutes is amended to read:

13 29.983 (1) (b) 9. For any muskellunge or lake sturgeon, ~~\$43.75~~ \$75.50.

14 **SECTION 3.** 29.983 (1) (b) 10. of the statutes is amended to read:

15 29.983 (1) (b) 10. For any largemouth or smallmouth bass, ~~\$26.25~~ \$45.25.

16 **SECTION 4.** 29.983 (1) (b) 11. of the statutes is amended to read:

17 29.983 (1) (b) 11. For any brook, rainbow, brown, or steel head trout, ~~\$26.25~~
18 \$45.25.

19 **SECTION 5.** 29.983 (1) (b) 12. of the statutes is amended to read:

20 29.983 (1) (b) 12. For any walleye pike, northern pike, or any other game fish
21 not mentioned in subds. 9. to 11., ~~\$8.75~~ \$50.

