



2017 SENATE BILL 257

May 17, 2017 - Introduced by Senators TESTIN, VUKMIR, HARS DORF, KAPENGA, LEMAHIEU, OLSEN and TIFFANY, cosponsored by Representatives JARCHOW, STAFSHOLT, BERNIER, R. BROOKS, EDMING, FELZKOWSKI, KAT SMA, KLEEFISCH, KULP, QUINN, RIPP, SKOWRONSKI, TITTL, ZIMMERMAN and MILROY. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry.

1 **AN ACT** *to repeal* 29.184 (6) (b) 1. and 2.; and *to renumber and amend* 29.184
2 (6) (b) (intro.) of the statutes; **relating to:** the cumulative preference system
3 for issuing Class A bear hunting licenses.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill allows a person of any age to apply for a preference point under the cumulative preference system for issuing Class A bear hunting licenses.

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources issues a Class A bear hunting license, which allows the license holder to shoot, shoot at, take, catch, or kill a bear or pursue, with or without the use of dogs, a bear for the purpose of shooting, shooting at, taking, catching, or killing the bear. Under current law, if the number of applicants for the license exceeds the number of licenses available, DNR administers a cumulative preference system for issuing Class A bear licenses. Under the system, an applicant may apply for a license or may apply for only a preference point if he or she is not seeking a license for the upcoming bear hunting season. DNR gives a preference point to each person who applies for a preference point and to each person who applies for a license but who is not selected. The more preference points an applicant has, the higher priority he or she is given in issuing the licenses.

Under current law, an applicant seeking a preference point must be at least ten years old on the first day of the upcoming bear hunting season and be eligible for a hunting license on that date. Under this bill, a person of any age may apply for a preference point and eligibility for a hunting license is not a prerequisite.

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For further information see the *state* 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.** 29.184 (6) (b) (intro.) of the statutes is renumbered 29.184 (6) (b)
2 and amended to read:

3 29.184 (6) (b) *Cumulative preference system; random selection.* If the number
4 of qualified applications for Class A bear licenses exceeds the number of available
5 licenses, the department shall select applicants to be issued Class A bear licenses
6 based upon a cumulative preference system. This system shall establish preference
7 categories for those applicants who applied for but who were not issued Class A bear
8 licenses or bear harvest permits under s. 29.1085 (3) (b), 1993 stats., in the previous
9 season, with higher priority given to those categories with more preference points
10 than those with fewer preference points. For each season, the department shall
11 allow each applicant under the system to apply for a preference point or for a license.
12 The department shall give a preference point to each applicant who applies for a
13 preference point and to each applicant who applies for a license but who is not
14 selected. Applicants who fail to apply for either a preference point or a license at least
15 once during any 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously accumulated preference
16 points. If the number of applicants within a preference category exceeds the number
17 of Class A bear licenses available in the category, the department shall select at
18 random the applicants to be issued licenses within the preference category.
19 ~~Beginning on April 18, 2002, an applicant for a preference point must meet all of the~~
20 ~~following requirements on the first day of the bear hunting season that immediately~~
21 ~~follows the date of application: A person of any age may apply for a preference point.~~

