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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2005 Wisconsin Act 284**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 131]

**Nonresident Trapping Licenses**

2005 Wisconsin Act 284 creates a nonresident trapping license. Prior to the enactment of Act 284, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) was authorized to issue trapping licenses only to state residents. In addition to creating a nonresident trapping license, Act 284 adds the trapping license to the privileges authorized for the holder of a nonresident conservation patron license. Under the Act, DNR may issue a nonresident trapping license only to a person who resides in a state that allows nonresidents of that state to trap within that state.

The fee for a nonresident trapping license is \$149.25. The fee for a resident trapping license, which is not changed by the Act, is \$19.25.

The Act requires a nonresident to successfully complete the trapper education course in this state or a similar course in another state in order to obtain a trapping license. Resident trappers who held a trapping license prior to May 12, 1992, or who are farmers, are exempt from the requirement to obtain a certificate of accomplishment in the trapper education course. Act 284 retains these exemptions for residents who apply for a trapping license, but provides no exceptions from the requirement to obtain a certificate of accomplishment in the trapper education course in order to obtain a nonresident trapping license.

The DNR is authorized under current law to limit the number of bobcats, fishers, or otters that may be trapped in any area of the state. The statute authorizes DNR to limit the number of trappers and to limit the maximum harvest. The DNR may accomplish this by establishing a permit system and by giving priority to applicants who did not receive a permit in prior years. If the DNR establishes a permit system that regulates the trapping of bobcats, fishers, or otters, the Act authorizes DNR to impose greater or stricter limitations on trapping by nonresidents than on trapping by residents, and to give greater preference to residents over nonresidents in issuing permits.

**Effective Date:** The Act takes effect on April 21, 2006.

**Prepared by:** Mark C. Patrosky, Senior Staff Attorney

April 25, 2006

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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/>.