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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2005 Wisconsin Act 53**  
[2005 Assembly Bill 178]

**Deferral of Preference Selection for  
Hunting and Trapping by Members  
of the Armed Forces**

Under current law, certain licenses or permits that are issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for hunting, trapping, or fishing are issued on a random or preference selection basis. These approvals are as follows:

- Hunter's choice deer hunting permit.
- Bonus deer hunting permit.
- Bobcat hunting and trapping permit.
- Otter trapping permit.
- Fisher permit.
- Canada goose hunting permit.
- Wild turkey hunting license.
- Sharp-tailed grouse hunting permit.
- Class A bear license.
- Elk hunting license.
- Sturgeon spearing license.

The random or preference selection system differs for each of these approvals. However, for all of the selection systems, a person who is unable to use the approval under a random or preference selection system loses that opportunity and must commence the selection process again.

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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/>.

Act 53 allows a person who obtains an approval under a random or preference selection system and who is unable to use the approval to hunt, trap, or fish because the person is serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces or the National Guard to ask that the approval be deferred. Upon receiving such a request, at any time up to the day prior to the beginning of the applicable season, the DNR is required to defer the approval. A person whose permit or license is deferred may apply for the deferred approval no later than the calendar year after the calendar year in which he or she ceased serving in the Armed Forces or National Guard. The person may also apply earlier if he or she is able to use the approval to hunt, fish, or trap.

***Effective Date:*** Act 53 takes effect on April 1, 2006.

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