



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2005 Wisconsin Act 283
[2005 Assembly Bill 523]

**Resident Hunting and Fishing for
Armed Forces Members**

Prior fish and game statutes required the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a resident fishing license, a resident small game hunting license, or a resident deer hunting license to any person who applies for the license and shows that he or she is a member of the U.S. Armed Forces and is stationed in Wisconsin. This requirement for the DNR to issue the specified resident licenses also applies to full-time undergraduate students in Wisconsin public or private colleges or universities, foreign students who are attending high school in Wisconsin or an agricultural short course at the University of Wisconsin System.

Act 283 retains the current statutory provisions regarding students, and modifies the statutory provisions regarding members of the Armed Forces. [The provisions regarding students are modified by 2005 Wisconsin Act 243.]

Act 283 expands the current statute so that a qualifying member of the Armed Forces is treated as a resident for purposes of determining the member's eligibility for and cost of obtaining any hunting, trapping, or fishing approval issued by the DNR. This provision relates not only to the licenses for these purposes, but also to being placed in the resident category for certain license preferences. Also, Act 283 expands the definition of a qualified member of the Armed Forces to include not only those in active service in the U.S. Armed Forces who are stationed in this state, but also individuals who are stationed in this state and are members of forces incorporated in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Effective Date: 2005 Wisconsin Act 283 takes effect on April 21, 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/>.