



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 166

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

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Current law allows a person who owns, leases, or controls land where wildlife damage occurs to apply to the county for a wildlife damage claim payment and for wildlife damage abatement assistance. Under the current statute, a person who receives either the damage payments or abatement assistance must permit hunting on the property where the wildlife damage occurred.

Assembly Bill 166 provides that a person who receives only wildlife damage abatement assistance (i.e., who does not receive wildlife damage payments) is not required to open the land for hunting.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 accomplishes the same purpose as the bill, but makes changes that clarify the intent of the bill and that make the bill fit into the current statutory framework of the wildlife damage program.

- The substitute amendment eliminates the requirement to allow hunting under both the wildlife damage abatement and claim program, and the wild animal removal program. The bill affects only the wildlife damage abatement and claim program.
- The substitute amendment eliminates the requirement to open the land to hunting if the shooting permit for deer causing damage is the only abatement measure the person receives. The bill eliminates the requirement to open land for hunting if the person receives any wildlife damage abatement assistance (such as fencing).
- The substitute amendment requires the person to waive eligibility for a wildlife damage claim payment for damage caused by deer. The bill applies to a person who receives only wildlife damage abatement assistance (and not to a person who receives a wildlife damage claim payment) but does not include a means for assuring that the person will not make a claim for a wildlife damage payment.

- The substitute amendment takes effect on the January 1 after publication of the act, in order to give the Department of Natural Resources sufficient time to establish procedures to implement the bill and to contact all counties that administer the wildlife damage program. The bill takes effect immediately.

Legislative History

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on April 27, 2005, and was adopted by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. Assembly Bill 166, as amended, was recommended by the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources on April 27, 2005 on a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 0. Assembly Bill 166 was passed by the Assembly on a voice vote on May 10, 2005.

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