



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 719

**Assembly
Amendment 1**

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Current law authorizes school districts to acquire land for school forests and to engage in forestry.

Assembly Bill 719 provides that a school board may allow hunting within its school forest, but not closer than 1,700 feet from the school grounds. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) is required to define what is the school grounds. The Department of Natural Resources is directed to establish and maintain open and closed seasons for game located within the school forest that are consistent with open and closed seasons on lands adjacent to the school forest. The bill also creates exemptions from statutes that prohibit a person under the age of 18 from possessing a dangerous weapon and that prohibit possession of dangerous weapons on school premises. The exemptions apply to persons who are legally hunting in a school forest as authorized by the school board.

Assembly Amendment 1 modifies an existing statute that prohibits hunting within 1,700 feet of a school grounds to make it clear that this prohibition does not prohibit hunting in a school forest if the school board has authorized hunting in the school forest. The amendment eliminates the requirement for DPI to define what is a “school grounds.” The amendment adds a provision regarding the animals that may be hunted, that prohibits the school board from allowing hunting for any wild animal when there is not an open season for that animal on land adjacent to the school forest. The amendment clarifies that even though there is not an open season for hunting a wild animal on the school forest, the DNR may remove wild animals under wildlife damage statutes. Finally, the amendment redrafts and clarifies the exemption from the prohibition of carrying a dangerous weapon on school premises.

Legislative History

Representative Friske introduced Assembly Amendment 1 on January 11, 2006. On January 18, 2006 the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources recommended adoption of Assembly Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes, 0; and passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 15; Noes. 0.

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