

GOVERNOR'S VETO MESSAGE

March 29, 2024

To the Honorable Members of the Assembly:

I am vetoing **Assembly Bill 512** in its entirety.

This bill repeals Department of Natural Resources administrative code provisions that prohibit a person from hunting or pursuing a free-roaming wild animal with the aid of a dog from May 1 to June 30 in a designated portion of the state north of certain east-west highways. Additionally, this bill repeals Department of Natural Resources administrative code provisions restricting dog trialing and dog training on free-roaming wild animals from May 1 to June 30 in the designated northern zone.

I am vetoing this bill in its entirety because I object to increasing the risk of harassment against ground-nesting birds, deer fawns, elk calves, bear cubs and other wildlife in ecologically sensitive areas. Ample opportunities exist for individuals to hunt and train using dogs within this region outside of the May 1 to June 30 timeframe. The administrative code provisions protect wildlife during the important spring breeding and migration season.

Respectfully submitted,
TONY EVERS
Governor