



2023 ASSEMBLY BILL 1085

February 12, 2024 - Introduced by Representatives MURSAU, BRANDTJEN, EDMING, GREEN, MOSES and O'CONNOR, cosponsored by Senators TESTIN, BALLWEG and WANGGAARD. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage.

- 1 **AN ACT to create** 90.21 (5m) of the statutes; **relating to:** providing grants for
2 double-fencing of farm-raised white-tailed deer.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, a person who keeps farm-raised deer must be registered with the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and, if keeping white-tailed deer, must also obtain a fence inspection certificate from the Department of Natural Resources. To obtain a DNR fence inspection certificate, a farm-raised white-tailed deer keeper must meet certain fencing requirements; keepers may choose between maintaining a double perimeter fence or a single solid perimeter fence.

In addition, current DATCP rules require a farm-raised deer herd to be enrolled in DATCP's chronic wasting disease (CWD) herd status program before a live deer may be moved off the farm to a place other than to slaughter. To maintain enrollment in the herd status program, the herd must be enclosed by a "double protective barrier" if at least two wild deer found or killed within five miles of the farm-raised deer herd have tested positive for CWD. A "double protective barrier" may be either a double fence or a single solid barrier.

This bill provides that, if DNR or DATCP require a person to maintain a double perimeter fence, install a second perimeter fence, or install a solid perimeter fence around a deer farm, DNR must provide the person with a grant equal to the cost of installing the second perimeter fence or solid perimeter fence.

