

1999 DRAFTING REQUEST

Assembly Amendment (AA-AB133)

Received: **05/11/99**

Received By: **gibsom**

Wanted: **Soon**

Identical to LRB:

For: **Legislative Fiscal Bureau 68314**

By/Representing: **Kava**

This file may be shown to any legislator: **NO**

Drafter: **gibsom**

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Subject: **Nat. Res. - fish and game**
Nat. Res. - forests and parks

Extra Copies:

Pre Topic:

LFB:.....Kava -

Topic:

Funding for wildlife biologists

Instructions:

See Attached

Drafting History:

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
/1	gibsom 05/13/99	chanaman 05/13/99	martykr 05/13/99	_____	lrb_docadmin 05/13/99		

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Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

May 5, 1999

Joint Committee on Finance

Paper #687

Integrated Forest Wildlife Positions (DNR -- Forests and Parks)

[LFB 1999-01 Budget Summary: Page 434, #4]

CURRENT LAW

The Department currently has 62.0 wildlife biologist positions funded from the following sources: (a) 45.7 from the fish and wildlife account of the conservation fund; (b) 13.3 from federal revenues and (c) 3.0 from pheasant stamp revenues.

GOVERNOR

Convert \$435,400 SEG and 8.0 SEG wildlife biologist positions annually from the fish and wildlife account to the forestry account of the conservation fund for forestry-related wildlife management on state land and other forested areas.

DISCUSSION POINTS

1. The duties of wildlife biologists include: (a) management of wildlife habitat on public lands, including developing habitat and implementing master plans; (b) management of wildlife populations and regulations, including conducting wildlife surveys and preparing quota harvest recommendations; (c) management of wildlife habitat on public lands, such as providing technical assistance to conservation clubs and local landowners; (d) providing public information and education; and (e) other activities related to the wildlife management program.

2. The duties of wildlife biologists in heavily-forested areas of the state may include conducting timber sale reviews and prescribed burns, managing wildlife populations of species in forested habitats, reviewing landowner applications under the managed forest land program, assisting in the master planning process for state forests and presenting educational programs that include information on forest resources.

3. Given that the work of wildlife biologists tends to focus on wildlife-related activities, they have traditionally been funded from the fish and wildlife account. Foresters, funded from the forestry account, have general responsibility for directing the activities of the forestry program and providing forestry expertise on the local level. It could be argued that on a departmental level, the workload and funding sources of the wildlife management and forestry subprograms are appropriately balanced and that funding wildlife biologists from the forestry account may be viewed as setting an inappropriate precedent.

4. However, it could be judged appropriate to use forestry account money for some wildlife biologist positions. The eight positions identified by the Department are all stationed in northern counties where the majority of the land is forested and where the workload may involve more forestry-related issues. The Department indicates that, under the proposed arrangement, specific biologists will not be limited to forestry-related work, but that the forestry funding would represent the overall statewide effort of all wildlife biologists on forestry-related work as determined by work planning efforts.

5. Under the bill, the funding and positions would remain in the split-funded general program operations appropriation for the land program. The positions would remain in the wildlife management subappropriation while the funding would be provided from the forestry subappropriation. This could complicate ongoing monitoring of the costs and sources of funding for the positions in future biennia. The Committee could choose to place the funding and positions in a separate appropriation to allow for greater oversight of the funding related to these positions in the future.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Approve the Governor's recommendation to convert \$435,400 SEG and 8.0 SEG wildlife biologist positions annually from the fish and wildlife account to the forestry account of the conservation fund for forestry-related wildlife management on state land and other forested areas.

Draft — 2. Approve the Governor's recommendation as modified to create a separate appropriation of \$435,400 SEG within the Bureau of Wildlife Management funded from the forestry account from which the 8.0 SEG wildlife biologists would be funded.

3. Maintain current law.

Prepared by: Russ Kava

1999

Date (time) needed soon

LRB b 0283 11 RMR

**LFB BUDGET AMENDMENT
[ONLY FOR LFB]**

MG : CMY :

See form **AMENDMENTS — COMPONENTS & ITEMS.**

**LFB AMENDMENT
TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45**

>>FOR JT. FIN. SUB. — NOT FOR INTRODUCTION<<

At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

#. Page 402, line 9: after that line insert:

"SECTION 308m. CR; 20.370(1) (LT)

20.370(1) (LT) Wildlife management. The amounts in the

#. Page , line :

schedule for wildlife management, in any
forested areas of this state.

#. Page , line :

(End)

#. Page , line :

activities

#. Page , line :

#. Page , line :



State of Wisconsin
1999 - 2000 LEGISLATURE

LRBb0283/1
MGG:cmh:km

LFB:.....Kava - Funding for wildlife biologists

FOR 1999-01 BUDGET — NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

LFB AMENDMENT

TO 1999 ASSEMBLY BILL 133 AND 1999 SENATE BILL 45

1 At the locations indicated, amend the bill as follows:

2 **1.** Page 402, line 9: after that line insert:

3 **“SECTION 308m.** 20.370 (1) (Lt) of the statutes is created to read:

4 20.370 (1) (Lt) *Wildlife management.* The amounts in the schedule for wildlife
5 management activities in forested areas of this state.”.

6 (END)