



MAY 14 2001

State of Wisconsin • DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

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SB15

Scott McCallum
Governor

Richard G. Chandler
Secretary of Revenue

May 10, 2001

The Honorable James Baumgart
Chair, Senate Committee on Environmental Resources
State Capitol, Room 306 South
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Baumgart:

Senate Bill 15, on which the Senate Committee on Environmental Resources is holding a hearing on Thursday, May 10, would eliminate the requirement that the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) obtain the social security number for any individual applying for a hunting or fishing license or for certain commercial licenses. It would also eliminate the requirement that DNR deny a license to any individual liable for delinquent taxes.

The Department of Revenue has compliance programs in place with several state agencies that issue occupational licenses, including DNR. These programs deny occupational licenses to applicants who owe delinquent taxes to the state, and are an effective compliance tool. In FY00, delinquent tax collections through these programs exceeded \$2 million.

The portion of these collections attributable to licenses issued by DNR is not known, so the revenue loss from this bill cannot be estimated. However, the bill would reduce the effectiveness of one of the tools the Department uses to enforce compliance with state tax laws.

Sincerely,

Diane Hardt
Administrator, Division of Income,
Sales and Excise Tax

RGC:DC:skr

TO: Committee on Environmental Resources

Thank you for considering Senate Bill 180. The Town of Springvale, Fond du Lac County had our first dealings with questions about game farm licensing 1-½ years ago. The specific question at one of our Town Board meetings was, How can the the Department of Natural Resources issue a game farm license in our Town without first contacting the local officials in regard to zoning and public safety issues? At that point Dennis Badtke contacted State Senator Carol Roessler for an opinion in regard to this. After finding out the facts the general consensus was that the current State Statutes in regard to game farm licensing could be improved.

It is our belief that Senate Bill 180 brings the issue of game farm licensing up to modern day standards. Game farm licensing should be accountable to zoning, as is any other business in our Town. The safety issue is a concern to adjacent property owners and should be a great concern if a residential district was nearby. We believe that senate Bill 180 addresses the above concerns and should help protect the well being of the general public.

Therefore we ask that you move Senate bill 180 through committee and on to a general vote of the Senate.

Thank you for your consideration.

Tom Hollander, Town Chairman

Dennis Badtke, Town Supervisor

Orrin Kimble, Town Supervisor

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Jennifer Reinert
Secretary



State of Wisconsin

Department of Workforce Development

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January 23, 2001

The Honorable James Baumgart
306 S State Capitol
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

Dear Senator Baumgart:

I am writing to inform you, as a member of the Senate Environmental Resources Committee, that passage of 2001 Senate Bill 15 could put the State of Wisconsin at risk of losing approximately \$380 million annually in federal Child Support and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funding.

Senate Bill 15 would repeal the requirement, enacted as a part of 1997 Wisconsin Act 191, that applicants for hunting and fishing licenses provide their social security number on their application. Wisconsin enacted this law to comply with the requirements of the Federal Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act (PRWORA) of 1996. That law required states to enact legislation providing that applicants for professional, occupational, marriage, and driver's licenses submit their social security number on the application. The federal Balanced Budget Act of 1997 amended PRWORA to also require the collection of social security numbers on applications for recreational licenses.

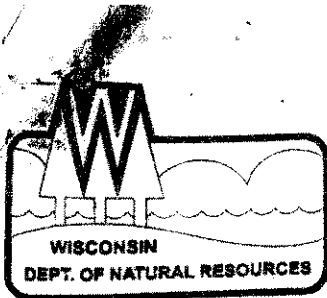
This legislation was enacted to aid in the collection of child support by matching the social security numbers of license applicants with the social security numbers maintained by this Department for individuals who owe child support. Nearly \$1.9 billion in unpaid child support is owed to Wisconsin children.

While we understand the concerns of hunters and fishermen, failure to comply with federal requirements puts the State of Wisconsin out of compliance with federal program requirements and could subject the State to the loss of both our Child Support and TANF Block Grant funding. The Department of Natural Resources has made a significant effort to protect the confidentiality of this information provided by license applicants. An applicant for a hunting or fishing license need only provide their social security number once. At that time, they are issued a unique customer identification number which they may use in the future in lieu of the social security number.

I hope this information is helpful in understanding the Department's concerns regarding SB 15.

Sincerely,

Larry Studesville
Executive Assistant



State of Wisconsin \ DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Tommy G. Thompson, Governor
George E. Meyer, Secretary

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May 5, 1999

MAY 13

The Honorable Carol Roessler
Wisconsin Senate
P.O. Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707-7882

RE: L9542

Dear Senator Roessler:

Thank you for your letter regarding the issuance of Game Farm Licenses by the Department of Natural Resources

Game Bird and Animal Farm and Wildlife Exhibit licenses are issued in accordance with the provisions set forth in chapter 29 of the Wisconsin State Statutes. Currently there is not a provision within the statutes to allow the department to deny an application based on a local or county zoning requirement.

Thomas Solin, Chief of Special Operations for the Bureau of Law Enforcement conducts a final review of all applications for the department. Warden Solin acknowledges there is an increasing number of complaints from County Zoning Administrators reference the Department of Natural Resources licensing procedure.

To address this issue, last year the department modified the permit to include the following notice: "IN ADDITION TO THIS LICENSE, THERE MAY ALSO BE A COUNTY OR LOCAL ZONING REQUIREMENT WITH WHICH THE LICENSEE MUST COMPLY. CONTACT YOUR LOCAL OR COUNTY LAND USE OR ZONING OFFICE FOR FUTURE INFORMATION." A copy of the license issued to Neal Stroh is attached and the notice is on the face of the Game Bird and Animal Farm License.

Jeff Bluske, Director of the La Crosse County Zoning and Land Information Office recommended the department adopt a procedure requiring a sign-off by the local zoning office prior to licensing by the department. Legal staff at the department advised statutes 29.861 and 29.867 would have to be revised before the department could adopt this procedure.

The department would support an amendment to the statutes requiring the applicant to certify they have received local approval for the type of business prior to applying for a Game Bird and Animal Farm and Wildlife Exhibit license.

Sincerely,

George
George E. Meyer
Secretary

Thank you for your letter