

2003 DRAFTING REQUEST

Bill

Received: **12/06/2002**

Received By: **rkite**

Wanted: **As time permits**

Identical to LRB:

For: **David Zien (608) 266-7511**

By/Representing: **Pete Hanson**

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

Drafter: **mglass**

May Contact:

Addl. Drafters:

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

Extra Copies:

Submit via email: **YES**

Requester's email: **Sen.Zien@legis.state.wi.us**

Carbon copy (CC:) to:

changed
04-09-2003
Per RNK
9MB

Pre Topic:

No specific pre topic given

Topic:

Sale of nonedible parts from upland game birds

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>
/?	rkite 12/18/2002						State
/1	mglass 12/23/2002	chanaman 12/26/2002	rschluet 12/30/2002		lemery 12/30/2002		State
/2	mglass	chanaman	pgreensl		sbasford	sbasford	State

<u>Vers.</u>	<u>Drafted</u>	<u>Reviewed</u>	<u>Typed</u>	<u>Proofed</u>	<u>Submitted</u>	<u>Jacketed</u>	<u>Required</u>
	01/09/2003	01/13/2003	01/13/2003	_____	01/13/2003	01/17/2003	
				_____		sbasford	
				_____		01/17/2003	
/3		chanaman	jfrantze	_____	amentkow	amentkow	
		02/06/2003	02/11/2003	_____	02/11/2003	02/11/2003	
		wjackson		_____			
		02/10/2003		_____			

FE Sent For: 03/11/2003.

<END>

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Att Intro.

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Topic:

Sale of turkey feathers

Instructions:

See Attached

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[Handwritten signatures and dates]
 2/11

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		cmh 1/10/12	1/13 p8				

FE Sent For:

<END>

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FE Sent For:

*chd
12/26
a*

[Signature]
<END>
12-30-2

12/6/02

Pete Hanson from Zen's office
wants to allow person's to sell turkey
feathers
for example - ^{turkey} processors have
lots of turkey feathers that they
would like to sell for fly fishing
lures but they are prohibited
from selling them

See 29.539 (?)

limit to sale of feathers that are commercially
processed

Enterconnect

LEADER-TELEGRAM

ARCHIVES



Story 4 of 68

[Next Story](#) [Previous Story](#) [Group Page](#) [Search Page](#)

Date	Publication	Category	Author	Illustration
05/12/2002	lt			p

Man cries foul over law that bars sale of turkey feathers

Opponents fear poaching if legislation is changed

Staff file photo

Some of the feathers used to make this trout fly came from a wild turkey. A Strum businessman who sells fly-tying materials throughout North America would like to be able to purchase turkey feathers from Wisconsin hunters to be used in making flies, but state law prohibits the sale of turkey feathers or parts.

Lee Christensen head shot

STRUM -- If you shoot a deer in Wisconsin, you can sell the hide to be made into leather gloves or boots.

If you shoot a squirrel, you can sell the tail to be made into Mepps spinners in Antigo.

But if you shoot a wild turkey, you can't legally sell the feathers in Wisconsin, even though it is allowed in most neighboring states.

Lee Christensen, whose North American Fly Limited of Strum does a \$20 million business exporting deer skins and importing and distributing fly-tying materials, says hunters should have the right to sell turkey feathers.

He admits he has a vested interest. Turkey feathers, because of their mottled appearance, are used in many fishing flies. Christensen would like to make them available, cleaned and packaged, to retailers of fly-fishing materials throughout North America.

Other uses for turkey parts include feathers for arrows and wings or wing bones for turkey calls.

Taxidermists would like to have spare turkey feathers and other parts available if a hunter would bring in a damaged turkey for mounting.

It is possible to get spare feathers, but hunters have to donate them. It would be easier and fairer for everybody if wild turkey feathers could be bought and sold for a modest fee, said Mike Morley, a taxidermist in West Salem.

For three years, beginning in 1999, a resolution to legalize the sale of turkey feathers was introduced at Conservation Congress hearings and passed by large margins.

The Conservation Congress, created by state law, holds hearings each year in every county to allow people to discuss and vote on conservation laws. If the rules are supported locally, they may come back for a statewide vote before being passed on to the Department of Natural Resources' governing board for consideration.

But legalizing the sale of turkey parts never was considered by the DNR because some top wardens oppose it, Morley said.

"Basically, it is one or two people in the DNR that have lockdown control over everything. If they don't want a law to go through, it doesn't matter what the Conservation Congress wants," he said.

However, the DNR's director of law enforcement, Tom Harelson, said turkey poaching in Wisconsin has increased as the turkey population has increased, and allowing the sale of turkey parts only gives more incentive to poachers.

The DNR recently broke up a poaching ring in northern Wisconsin. The members were shooting grouse and turkeys from a truck and selling the skins in Illinois, where the sale of game parts is legal.

They were mostly targeting grouse -- they got \$10 each for 300 grouse skins, but they would also get \$40 per turkey skin, Harelson said.

A recent search of the Internet auction site eBay showed many turkey parts being auctioned on the internet, he said: wings for \$4 each; tail feathers for 21 cents each; breast feathers for a nickel each; a gobbler's beard for \$21.

Generally Wisconsin prohibits the sale of game animal parts or meat out of concern that commercialization will be an incentive for poaching.

Passenger pigeons, elk and the state's original wild turkey population were wiped out by market hunting, Harelson said. But there are exceptions. The sale of furs from trapping is allowed, and the sale of squirrel tails and deer hides and antlers is allowed.

The sale of deer hides prevents thousands of 10-pound hides from ending up in a landfill. Allowing the sale of antlers was probably a mistake because as antlers have gained value it has encouraged the poaching of big bucks for their antlers.

"The number of turkeys in Wisconsin has grown incredibly within the last 10 years, but it's very dependent on the numbers of hens out there," he said.

"Wildlife Management feels the turkey population in this state is fairly fragile in terms of the number of hens that are available for nesting."

Christensen said there are no markets for hen turkeys for fly-tying materials or in arrow-making. People

Interconnect

only want feathers from male turkeys.

Harelson said if fly-tying materials were the only use he wouldn't be as concerned, but there is a market for decorative feathers where hen feathers can be used as well as gobbler feathers.

Christensen said he has contacted the conservation departments of several Midwestern states that allow the sale of turkey feathers, and officials have said they do not have major turkey poaching problems.

Minnesota, Iowa, Michigan, North Dakota and South Dakota are among the states allowing the sale of turkey parts.

Harelson said only the state Legislature could change state statutes to prohibit the commercial sale of game parts.

The limited value of turkey feathers is not enough to encourage poaching, especially when weighed against the fines for getting caught poaching, Christensen said.

But even if the value of turkey feathers was enough to encourage poachers, the best way to kill that incentive would be to legalize the sale and flood the market with cheap, legally obtained feathers, Christensen said.

"The DNR understands Biology 101, they don't understand Economy 101," he said.

Christensen and Morley met with Harelson and DNR Secretary Darrell Bazzell to discuss turkey feathers and reached a partial compromise that the DNR would support the sale of feathers from commercial processors.

That would allow Christensen to buy feathers without creating an incentive for individuals to poach turkeys, Harelson said.

Right now there is nothing keeping commercial processor from giving feathers to Christensen if he makes arrangements to collect them, Harelson said.

State Sen. Dave Zien, R-Eau Claire, who arranged the meeting, said he plans to introduce a bill that would allow the sale of turkey feathers, possibly by January.

"We just want to get it done. Here you have perhaps the largest producer of fly-fishing materials in the world, and he would use those turkey feathers, but now they just go to waste," Zien said.

Knight, a Leader-Telegram staff reporter, can be reached at 830-5835, (800) 236-7077 or joe.knight@ecpc.com.

s t

strumfishing



D-Note

PRELIMINARY DRAFT - NOT READY FOR INTRODUCTION

1 AN ACT ^{gen cert} ...; relating to: feathers ^{removed} ~~taken~~ from wild turkeys.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law, with limited exceptions, prohibits the sale, purchase, or bartering of wild animals, or parts of wild animals. Wild animals or wild animal parts that are excepted include the tails and skins of lawfully killed squirrels and the hides of bear if they include the bear's claws, head, and teeth. This bill creates a new exception for feathers from lawfully killed wild turkeys if the feathers are removed from the carcass by a taxidermist licensed by the Department of Natural Resources ~~DNR~~ or by a business that processes wild turkey carcasses.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

2 SECTION 1. 29.539 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:
3 29.539 (2m) The feathers of a wild turkey that has been lawfully killed are
4 exempt from sub. (1) if any of the following ~~apply~~ ^{applies}
5 (a) The feathers are removed from the wild turkey by a person who holds a
6 taxidermist permit under s. 29.506.

**DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRB-1069/16¹
MGG:.....

cmh

date

I recommend that you give the interested parties, including DNR, an opportunity to review this legislation before introduction to ensure that it achieves the parties' intent.

Mary Gibson-Glass
Senior Legislative Attorney
Phone: (608) 267-3215

**DRAFTER'S NOTE
FROM THE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU**

LRB-1069/1dn
MGG:cmh:rs

December 30, 2002

I recommend that you give the interested parties, including DNR, an opportunity to review this legislation before introduction to ensure that it achieves the parties' intent.

Mary Gibson-Glass
Senior Legislative Attorney
Phone: (608) 267-3215



State of Wisconsin
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

RMR
LRB-1069/m 2
MGG:cmh:rs
g
stamp

soon

2003 BILL

of upland game birds
negotiate
upland game birds

1 AN ACT to create 29.539 (2m) of the statutes; relating to: feathers removed from
2 upland game birds
(wild turkeys)

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law, with limited exceptions, prohibits the sale, purchase, or bartering of wild animals, or parts of wild animals. Wild animals or wild animal parts that are excepted include the tails and skins of lawfully killed squirrels and the hides of bear if they include the bear's claws, head, and teeth. This bill creates a new exception for feathers from lawfully killed ~~wild turkeys~~ if the feathers are removed from the carcass by a taxidermist licensed by the Department of Natural Resources or by a business that processes ~~wild turkey~~ carcasses. The bill defines upland game birds

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill. partidge, pheasant, quail, and wild turkey. to be grouse,

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

an upland game bird

3 SECTION 1. 29.539 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:
4 29.539 (2m) (b) The feathers of a wild turkey that has been lawfully killed are
5 exempt from sub. (1) if any of the following applies:

(a) In this subsection, "upland game bird" means a grouse, partidge, pheasant, quail, or wild turkey.

not

BILL

use twice
↓

upland game bird

1 ~~(A)~~ 1. The feathers are removed from the ~~wild turkey~~ by a person who holds a
2 taxidermist permit under s. 29.506.

upland game birds

use once

3 ~~(B)~~ 2. The feathers are removed from the ~~wild turkey~~ by a person who is engaged
4 in the commercial processing of ~~wild turkeys~~.

SECTION 2. Initial applicability.

6 (1) This act first applies to feathers from ~~wild turkeys~~ that are killed on the
7 effective date of this subsection.

upland game birds

(END)

Basford, Sarah

From: Hanson, Peter
Sent: Thursday, January 16, 2003 5:20 PM
To: LRB.Legal
Subject: Draft review: LRB-1069/2 Topic: Sale of turkey feathers

It has been requested by <Hanson, Peter> that the following draft be jacketed for the SENATE:

Draft review: LRB-1069/2 Topic: Sale of turkey feathers



State of Wisconsin
2003 - 2004 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1069/3
MGG:cmh:pg

FWLj
RM

soon

2003 BILL

removing feathers and nonedible parts

REGEN

1 AN ACT to create 29.539 (2m) of the statutes; relating to: feathers removed from
2 upland game birds.

and other nonedible parts

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law, with limited exceptions, prohibits the sale, purchase, or bartering of wild animals, or parts of wild animals. Wild animals or wild animal parts that are excepted include the tails and skins of lawfully killed squirrels and the hides of bear if they include the bear's claws, head, and teeth. This bill creates a new exception for feathers from lawfully killed upland game birds if the feathers are removed from the carcass by a taxidermist licensed by the Department of Natural Resources or by a business that processes carcasses of upland game birds. The bill defines upland game birds to be grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, and wild turkey.

For further information see the *state* fiscal estimate, which will be printed as an appendix to this bill.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 SECTION 1. 29.539 (2m) of the statutes is created to read:
4 29.539 (2m) (a) In this subsection "upland game bird" means a grouse,
5 partridge, pheasant, quail, or wild turkey.

BILL

and other nonedible parts

1 (b) The feathers of an upland game bird that has been lawfully killed are
2 exempt from sub. (1) ~~if any of the following applies:~~

3 1. ~~The feathers are removed from the upland game bird by a person who holds~~
4 ~~a taxidermist permit under s. 29.506.~~

5 2. ~~The feathers are removed from the upland game bird by a person who is~~
6 ~~engaged in the commercial processing of upland game birds.~~

7 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

and other nonedible parts of

8 (1) This act first applies to feathers ~~from~~ upland game birds that are killed on
9 the effective date of this subsection.

10 (END)



2003 BILL

1 AN ACT to create 29.539 (2m) of the statutes; relating to: feathers removed from
2 upland game birds.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law, with limited exceptions, prohibits the sale, purchase, or bartering of wild animals, or parts of wild animals. Wild animals or wild animal parts that are excepted include the tails and skins of lawfully killed squirrels and the hides of bear if they include the bear's claws, head, and teeth. This bill creates a new exception for feathers ^{and other non-edible parts} from lawfully killed upland game birds, ~~if the feathers are removed from the carcass by a taxidermist licensed by the Department of Natural Resources or by a business that processes carcasses of upland game birds.~~ The bill defines upland game birds to be grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, and wild turkey.

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BILL

non-edible parts

1 (b) The ~~feathers~~ of an upland game bird that has been lawfully killed are
2 exempt from sub. (1) ~~if any of the following applies:~~

3 ~~1. The feathers are removed from the upland game bird by a person who holds~~
4 ~~a taxidermist permit under s. 29.506.~~

5 ~~2. The feathers are removed from the upland game bird by a person who is~~
6 ~~engaged in the commercial processing of upland game birds.~~

7 **SECTION 2. Initial applicability.**

8 (1) This act first applies to feathers from upland game birds that are killed on
9 the effective date of this subsection.

10 (END)