

2003 SENATE BILL 92

April 2, 2003 – Introduced by Senator DECKER, cosponsored by Representatives HAHN, HUBER, AINSWORTH, GRONEMUS and PLOUFF. Referred to Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.181 (2m) (title) and 29.181 (2m) (a); and *to create* 29.181
2 (1b) (c) of the statutes; **relating to:** issuance of bonus deer hunting permits to
3 certain residents who are engaged in the production of maple syrup.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may issue bonus deer hunting permits (bonus permits) to residents and nonresidents who hold licenses that authorize the hunting of deer if DNR determines that the size or characteristics of the state's deer population require the hunting of additional or special types of deer. This bonus permit allows the holder to kill an additional deer of the sex or type authorized by DNR. Under current law, an applicant for this bonus permit must pay a fee for the permit. DNR may issue free bonus permits to farm owners who meet certain eligibility requirements. To be eligible, a farm owner must be a state resident and must have already purchased a bonus permit for a given season. Also the farm owner's land must be located in whole or in part in a deer management area where the number of available bonus permits exceeds the number of permit applications or, in whole or in part, in an adjacent deer management area.

Under the bill, a resident who owns a parcel of land that is at least 50 acres in size and that contains trees that are used for the commercial production of maple syrup is eligible for these free bonus permits if the parcel is located in a deer management area where owners of farms are eligible for these free permits.

