

2003 SENATE BILL 122

April 23, 2003 – Introduced by Senators JAUCH, SCHULTZ and COWLES, cosponsored by Representatives JOHNSRUD, GROTHMAN, GARD, AINSWORTH, GRONEMUS, BOYLE, HINES, ALBERS, PLOUFF, HUBER, BIES, TURNER, M. LEHMAN, MUSSER and GUNDERSON. Referred to Committee on Environment and Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT to create** 29.314 (1) (am), 29.314 (3) (b) 4., 29.314 (4) (b) 4. and 29.314
2 (5) (b) 3m. of the statutes; **relating to:** the use of a laser sighting device by a
3 visually handicapped person while hunting.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law authorizes a visually handicapped person who holds an appropriate hunting license to hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow if the person obtains a permit and is accompanied by another person who is not disabled or visually handicapped. The kind of assistance that the accompanying person may provide includes assistance in sighting the firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow used by the visually handicapped person.

Current law also provides, with certain exceptions, that no person may use, or possess with intent to use, a light for the purpose of shining deer, elk, bear, or other wild animals while the person is hunting or in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow. A person is shining an animal if the person is casting rays of light on an area for the purpose of illuminating, locating, or attempting to illuminate or locate wild animals. Current law also prohibits a person from using or possessing with intent to use a light for shining wild animals between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. from September 15 to December 31, regardless of whether he or she is hunting with a weapon.

This bill expands the exceptions that apply to the general prohibitions against shining wild animals. The bill authorizes a person who is visually handicapped and

