

2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 359

May 29, 2007 – Introduced by Representatives GUNDERSON, SUDER, BALLWEG, BIES, ALBERS, HAHN, HINES, A. OTT, MUSSER, PETROWSKI and VRUWINK, cosponsored by Senators MILLER, KEDZIE, SCHULTZ, COWLES and OLSEN. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

1 **AN ACT** *to renumber and amend* 29.192 (4); *to amend* 29.180 (1) (a) 3., 29.183
2 (1) (c), 29.184 (6) (c) 1r. and 29.192 (4m) (intro.); and *to create* 29.192 (4) (b) of
3 the statutes; **relating to:** the preference systems for issuing Class A bear
4 licenses, bobcat hunting and trapping permits, fisher trapping permits, and
5 otter trapping permits.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) may limit the number of bobcats, fishers, otters, and other species of wildlife harvested by establishing a cumulative preference system. DNR administers a cumulative preference system for issuing permits if the number of applicants for the permits exceeds the number available. Under the current system, an applicant receives a preference point for each season for which the applicant applies but does not receive a permit. Higher priority is given to those applicants with more preference points. When an applicant is selected, he or she must accept the permit for the upcoming season.

Under this bill, for bobcat hunting and trapping permits, fisher trapping permits, and otter trapping permits, an applicant may apply under the system for a permit or may apply for only a preference point if he or she is not seeking a permit for the upcoming season. DNR then gives a preference point to each person who applies for just a preference point and to each permit applicant who is not selected.

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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:

1 **SECTION 1.** 29.180 (1) (a) 3. of the statutes is amended to read:

2 29.180 (1) (a) 3. Bobcat hunting ~~or~~ and trapping permit.

3 **SECTION 2.** 29.183 (1) (c) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 29.183 (1) (c) Bobcat hunting ~~or~~ and trapping permit.

5 **SECTION 3.** 29.184 (6) (c) 1r. of the statutes is amended to read:

6 29.184 (6) (c) 1r. ~~The~~ Subject to ss. 29.024 and 54.25 (2) (c) 1. d., the department
7 shall issue a ~~notice of approval~~ Class A bear license to those qualified applicants
8 selected to receive a ~~Class A bear license.~~ ~~A person who receives a notice of approval~~
9 ~~and who pays the fees required for the license shall be issued the license subject to~~
10 ~~ss. 29.024 and 54.25 (2) (c) 1. d.~~ under par. (b).

11 **SECTION 4.** 29.192 (4) of the statutes is renumbered 29.192 (4) (a) and amended
12 to read:

13 29.192 (4) (a) If the department decides to limit the number of persons taking
14 Canada geese, sharp-tailed grouse, ~~fishers, otters, bobcats~~ or sturgeon by issuing
15 permits and if the number of persons seeking the permits exceeds the number of
16 available permits, the department shall issue the permits according to a cumulative
17 preference system established by the department. The department shall give a
18 preference point to each applicant for each previous season for which the applicant
19 applied but was not issued a permit. The system shall establish preference categories
20 for these applicants, with higher priority given to those categories with more points
21 than those with fewer points. Applicants who fail to apply at least once during any

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1 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously accumulated preference points. If the
2 number of applicants within a preference category or a subcategory exceeds the
3 number of permits available in the category or subcategory, the department shall
4 select at random within the category or subcategory the applicants to be issued the
5 permits.

6 **SECTION 5.** 29.192 (4) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

7 29.192 (4) (b) 1. If the department decides to limit the number of persons taking
8 fishers, otters, or bobcats by issuing permits and if the number of persons seeking
9 the permits exceeds the number of available permits, the department shall issue the
10 permits according to a cumulative preference system established by the department.
11 The system shall establish preference categories for those applicants who applied for
12 but were not issued the applicable permits, with higher priority given to those
13 categories with more points than those with fewer preference points. For each
14 season, the department shall allow each applicant under the system to apply for a
15 preference point or for a permit. The department shall give a preference point to each
16 applicant who applies for a preference point and to each applicant who applies for
17 a permit but who is not selected. Applicants who fail to apply for either a preference
18 point or a permit at least once during any 3 consecutive years shall lose all previously
19 accumulated preference points. If the number of applicants within a preference
20 category or a subcategory exceeds the number of permits available in the category
21 or subcategory, the department shall select at random within the category or
22 subcategory the applicants to be issued the permits.

23 2. A person who applies for a preference point or a permit under subd. 1. shall
24 pay the processing fee under s. 29.553 at the time of application.

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1 3. The department shall issue a permit to those qualified applicants selected
2 to receive a permit under subd. 1.

3 **SECTION 6.** 29.192 (4m) (intro.) of the statutes is amended to read:

4 29.192 (4m) (intro.) If the department establishes a permit system under sub.
5 (3) or (4) (b) that affects the trapping of bobcats, fishers, or otters, the department
6 may do any of the following:

7 **SECTION 7. Initial applicability.**

8 (1) This act first applies to Class A bear licenses, fisher trapping permits, otter
9 trapping permits, and bobcat hunting and trapping permits that are issued on the
10 effective date of this subsection.

11 **SECTION 8. Effective date.**

12 (1) This act takes effect on April 1, 2008, or the day after publication, whichever
13 is later.

14 (END)