



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2007 Wisconsin Act 66
[2007 Assembly Bill 359]

**Preference System for Hunting and
Trapping Approvals**

Background Information

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) is authorized by statute to limit the number of bobcats, fishers, otters, and other species of wildlife harvested by establishing a cumulative preference system. The preference system is applied where there are more applicants for a hunting license or a trapping permit than the available number of licenses or permits. The applicant receives a preference point for each hunting or trapping season for which the applicant applies but does not receive a license or permit. As the applicant continues to apply and receive preference points, the applicant has given higher priority for receiving a license or permit. Eventually, the applicant is selected to receive a license or permit and he or she must accept the license or permit for the upcoming season.

2007 Wisconsin Act 66

2007 Wisconsin Act 66 adds a feature to the cumulative preference system. For bobcat hunting and trapping permits, fisher trapping permits, and otter trapping permits, an applicant may apply for a preference point only, if he or she does not seek a permit for the next season. DNR will give a preference point to each person who applies only for a preference point, and to each applicant for a permit who has not been selected under the preference system. The Act thus gives more flexibility and allows the applicant who cannot use a permit for the following year to receive a preference point and continue moving up in the preference system.

Effective Date: March 26, 2008

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.