



**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
AMENDMENT MEMO**

2009 Assembly Bill 595

**Assembly Substitute
Amendment 1**

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CURRENT LAW

Current law authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a Class A hunting permit to an applicant who is permanently disabled or a Class B hunting permit to a person who has a temporary disability. Current law specifies the types of disabilities that qualify an applicant for a Class A or Class B permit. Class A permit holders may hunt with a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow from a stationary vehicle; fish or troll using an electric motor; and hunt certain game with a crossbow. Class B permit holders may use any of the hunting or fishing methods authorized for a Class A permit holder that are specifically approved by DNR for that Class B permit holder. In order to hunt, fish, or troll after receiving a permit, a permit holder must also possess a valid approval for the type of hunting or fishing he or she will be doing.

Current law requires the DNR to conduct an investigation before issuing a Class A or a Class B permit. Current law also requires an applicant for a Class A or a Class B permit to submit, along with an application form, a written statement or report prepared and signed by a licensed physician or licensed chiropractor, prepared no more than six months preceding the application, verifying that the applicant is physically disabled. In addition, an applicant for a Class A or a Class B permit must authorize the DNR by written release to examine all medical records regarding the applicant's physical disability.

2009 ASSEMBLY BILL 595

2009 Assembly Bill 595 requires DNR to issue a Class B permit to an applicant who submits a statement from a licensed physician that the applicant has a physical disability that restricts mobility or ambulation due to terminal illness. The DNR may not require a written release from the applicant authorizing DNR to examine the applicant's medical records regarding the applicant's physical

disability or terminal illness. The bill specifies that the DNR is not required to conduct an investigation before issuing a Class B permit under the bill.

ASSEMBLY SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 does all of the following:

- Requires DNR to issue a Class A permit to an applicant who submits an application on a form prepared and furnished by the DNR that is accompanied by a statement from a licensed physician that the applicant has a life expectancy of less than 12 months.
- Directs DNR to issue a Class A permit under the substitute amendment within seven working days after the DNR receives the applicant's submission.
- Provides that DNR may not require a written release from the applicant authorizing the DNR to examine the applicant's medical records regarding the applicant's disability or life expectancy prognosis.
- Specifies that DNR is not required to conduct an investigation before issuing a Class A permit under the substitute amendment.
- Provides that a person may be issued only one Class A permit under the substitute amendment in his or her lifetime.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by the Assembly Committee on Fish and Wildlife on April 14, 2010. On the same date, the committee recommended adoption of Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 10; Noes, 0; and recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by the same vote.

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