



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 280
[2011 Assembly Bill 82]

**Payments for Wildlife Damage
Caused by Cougars**

Wisconsin law authorizes a person who owns, leases, or controls land on which certain wild animals cause damage to crops or livestock to apply to the county for wildlife damage claim payments and for wildlife damage abatement assistance. With certain exceptions, the person may receive payments only if the person opens the land for hunting the type of animal that caused the wildlife damage. Wildlife damage for which a person is eligible to receive payments includes wildlife damage caused by deer, bear, and geese.

Act 280 adds wildlife damage caused by cougar to the type of damage for which a person is eligible to receive wildlife damage claim payments and wildlife damage abatement assistance. The Act also exempts that person from the requirement that the land be open for the hunting of cougar in order to be eligible to receive payments.

Effective date: Act 280 takes effect on April 27, 2012.

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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/>.