AN ACT to repeal 29.4035; to amend 29.403 (4); and to create 29.403 (1m) of the statutes; relating to: culling of bass in a fishing tournament.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Current law requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to promulgate rules to establish a program to authorize and regulate fishing tournaments. Current law specifies certain rules that DNR may promulgate for the regulation of fishing tournaments, including rules specifying the length and frequency of fishing tournaments, the species of fish that may be caught and the bag and size limits that will apply. Current statutory law also prohibits a person from possessing a type of fish in excess of the bag limit for that type of fish.

This bill specifically authorizes culling at bass fishing tournaments and exempts the culling from any applicable bag limits imposed by statute or rule.

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:

SECTION 1. 29.403 (1m) of the statutes is created to read:

29.403 (1m) Any person conducting a bass fishing tournament authorized by the department under this section may allow participants to fish for, and cull, both
largemouth and smallmouth bass. Section 29.055 and any rule promulgated pursuant to sub. (3) (L), as they relate to bag and possession limits for bass, do not apply to culling that occurs in a bass fishing tournament authorized by the department under this section.

**SECTION 2.** 29.403 (4) of the statutes is amended to read:

29.403 (4) Notwithstanding subs. (2) and (3), the department may not, under the program established under sub. (1), allow a participant in a fishing tournament to engage in any activity in which the department would not allow an angler who is not a participant to engage at the same time on the same body of water. This subsection does not apply to participants in a bass fishing tournament for which a permit has been issued under s. 29.4035 authorized by the department under this section.

**SECTION 3.** 29.4035 of the statutes is repealed.