February 7, 2012 – Introduced by Senators SCHULTZ, HOLPERIN, HANSEN and COWLES, cosponsored by Representatives PETRYK, ENDSLEY, MARKLEIN, MOLEPSKE Jr, MURSAU, RIVARD, JACQUE, TRANEL, CLARK and SPANBAUER. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Environment.

AN ACT to create 20.370 (5) (fv) and 23.09 (23) of the statutes; relating to:

authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to collect voluntary contributions in addition to fees charged for certain approvals, authorizing the voluntary contributions to be paid to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin, and making an appropriation.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill authorizes an applicant for certain authorizations issued by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), including hunting, trapping, and fishing licenses and permits; snowmobile, all-terrain vehicle, and boat registrations; and state park vehicle admission receipts (approvals), to make a voluntary contribution of at least $2 in addition to the fees charged for these approvals. The bill requires that all of these voluntary contributions be collected by DNR and paid, at least annually, to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin (foundation) to be used by the foundation to establish an endowment program to support habitat management activities on land owned or managed by this state. The bill also requires DNR to enter into a memorandum of agreement with the foundation with regard to the payments made to the foundation. The bill requires the memorandum of agreement to include a description of the types of activities that the foundation will support under the endowment program, the manner in which the endowment program funds will be managed, and, if the foundation will make grants under the endowment program, the methods that will be used to award the grants.
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For further information see the state and local 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. 20.370 (5) (fv) of the statutes is created to read:

20.370 (5) (fv) Resource aids — Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin payments. All moneys received under s. 23.09 (23) (b) for payments to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin under s. 23.09 (23) (d).

SECTION 2. 23.09 (23) of the statutes is created to read:

23.09 (23) Voluntary contributions; Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin. (a) In this subsection, “approval” means any type of approval or authorization issued by the department under ch. 29, subch. V. of ch. 30, or s. 23.33 (2), 27.01, or 350.12, including a license, permit, certificate, stamp, tag, registration, or vehicle admission receipt.

(b) Any applicant for an approval may, in addition to paying any fee charged for the approval, elect to make a voluntary contribution of at least $2 to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to be used by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to establish an endowment program to support habitat management activities on land owned or managed by this state.

(c) All moneys collected under par. (b) shall be credited to the appropriation account under 20.370 (5) (fv).

(d) The department shall enter into an agreement with the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to make payments, at least annually, from the appropriation under s. 20.370 (5) (fv) to the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to be used by the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin to establish
an endowment program to support habitat management activities on land owned or managed by this state. The memorandum of agreement shall include a description of the types of activities that the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will support under the endowment program, the manner in which the endowment program funds will be managed, and, if the Natural Resources Foundation of Wisconsin will make grants under the endowment program, the methods that will be used to award the grants.

(END)