



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2013 Wisconsin Act 64
[2013 Assembly Bill 380]

**Cumulative Preference System for
Sturgeon Spearing Permits**

Under **current law**, if the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) issues permits to limit the number of persons allowed to take sturgeon, and if the number of applicants for permits exceeds the number of available permits, the DNR must issue the permits according to a cumulative preference system. An applicant is issued one preference point for each season that he or she applies for, but does not receive a permit. Applicants fall within a preference category, and a higher priority is given to those categories with more preference points. Also under current law, during a period beginning on November 1 each year, the holder of a sturgeon spearing license may transfer the license to a minor by applying to DNR and paying a transfer fee.

2013 Wisconsin Act 64 changes the cumulative preference system for issuing sturgeon spearing permits. Under the Act, an applicant has the option to apply for either a sturgeon spearing permit or for a preference point. The DNR must provide a preference point to each applicant who applies for a preference point and to each applicant who applies for a permit, but who is not issued a permit. This is the same cumulative preference system that the DNR may use to issue permits to limit the number of persons taking fishers, otters, and bobcats. The Act also changes the beginning of the period in which the holder of a sturgeon spearing license may transfer the license to a minor by applying to the DNR from November 1 of each year to October 1 of each year.

Effective date: The Act takes effect on April 1, 2014.

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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.wisconsin.gov>.