2015 SENATE BILL 605

January 22, 2016 – Introduced by Senators TIFFANY, MARKLEIN and LEmahieu, cosponsored by Representatives KATSMA, R. BROOKS, CZAJA, HORLACHER, T. LARSON, A. OTT, QUINN, STEFFEN and THIESFELDT. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry.

AN ACT to renumber and amend 29.314 (1) (a); to amend 29.314 (4) (b) 2. and 29.314 (5) (b) 2.; and to create 29.314 (1) (ac) of the statutes; relating to: shining wild animals.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill expands an exception to the prohibition in current law on using, or possessing with intent to use, a light for shining wild animals between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. from September 15 to December 31 or while hunting or while in possession of a firearm, bow and arrow, or crossbow. The bill also removes wolves from the list of animals that may be hunted while using such a light. Under the bill, a person may possess or use at the point of kill a handheld flashlight or a battery operated light designed to be affixed to clothing or a part of the body or mounted to a firearm while hunting on foot for raccoons, foxes, coyotes, or other unprotected animals during the open season for the animals hunted.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 29.314 (1) (a) of the statutes is renumbered 29.314 (1) (ag) and amended to read:
29.314 (1) (ag) “Flashlight” means a battery operated light designed to be carried and held by hand or attached to clothing or a part of the body.

SECTION 2. 29.314 (1) (ac) of the statutes is created to read:

29.314 (1) (ac) “Firearm-mounted light” means a light that is battery operated and designed to be mounted on a firearm, but does not include a laser sighting device.

SECTION 3. 29.314 (4) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

29.314 (4) (b) 2. To a person who possesses a flashlight or firearm-mounted light or who uses a flashlight or firearm-mounted light at the point of kill while hunting on foot for wolves or for raccoons, foxes, coyotes, or other unprotected animals during the open season for the animals hunted.

SECTION 4. 29.314 (5) (b) 2. of the statutes is amended to read:

29.314 (5) (b) 2. To a person who possesses a flashlight or firearm-mounted light or who uses a flashlight or firearm-mounted light at the point of kill while hunting on foot for wolves or for raccoons, foxes, coyotes, or other unprotected animals during the open season for the animals hunted.