



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2017 Wisconsin Act 44
[2017 Senate Bill 257]

Preference Points for Class A Bear

A person who seeks a Class A bear license must apply to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). State law specifies that if the number of applicants for Class A bear licenses exceeds the number of licenses available, DNR must select applicants to be issued Class A bear licenses based upon a cumulative preference system. Each season, an applicant may apply for a license or may apply for only a preference point. DNR must give a preference point to each person who applies for a preference point and to each person who applies for a license but who is not selected.

Prior to 2017 Wisconsin Act 44, state law required an applicant for a preference point to be at least 10 years old on the first day of the bear hunting season that immediately follows the date of the application and be eligible for a hunting license on that date. Under Act 44, a person of any age may apply for a preference point and eligibility for a hunting license is not a prerequisite to apply for a preference point.

Effective date: August 4, 2017. Act 44 first applies to a person who applies for a preference point for Class A bear on that date.

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August 15, 2017

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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>.