January 29, 2018 - Introduced by Representatives QUINN, KLEEFISCH, VRUWINK, HORLACHER, DOYLE, BERCEAU and FIELDS, cosponsored by Senator RINGHAN. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

AN ACT to create 29.219 (2g), 29.229 (2) (gm), 29.2295 (2) (gm) and 29.563 (3) (a) 4g. and 4h. of the statutes; relating to: a resident lifetime fishing license.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, with certain exceptions including an exception for residents under the age of 16, no person may fish in this state unless the person has a valid approval that authorizes fishing. The Department of Natural Resources issues various fishing licenses, such as resident annual fishing licenses, one-day fishing licenses, and two-day sports fishing licenses. This bill requires DNR also to issue lifetime fishing licenses to residents. Under the bill, a resident lifetime fishing license confers the privilege of an annual fishing license. The holder of a resident lifetime fishing license must still be issued a fishing stamp if the type of fishing in which he or she will be engaged requires such a stamp. The bill establishes the fee for a resident lifetime fishing license at 30 times the fee for a resident annual fishing license, which under current law is $19.25 plus a 75 cent issuing fee. Thus, at the current rate, a resident lifetime fishing license fee under the bill is $577.50, plus a 75 cent issuing fee. The bill provides that the fee for a resident lifetime fishing license issued to a resident age 62 or older is reduced to five times the annual fishing license fee, which under the current rate is $96.25, plus a 75 cent issuing fee.

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. 29.219 (2g) of the statutes is created to read:

29.219 (2g) LIFETIME FISHING LICENSE. (a) The department shall issue a resident lifetime fishing license, subject to s. 29.024, to any resident who applies for this license.

(b) A resident lifetime fishing license issued to any resident who has attained the age of 62 shall be issued at the reduced fee under s. 29.563 (3) (a) 4h.

SECTION 2. 29.229 (2) (gm) of the statutes is created to read:

29.229 (2) (gm) Resident lifetime fishing licenses.

SECTION 3. 29.2295 (2) (gm) of the statutes is created to read:

29.2295 (2) (gm) Resident lifetime fishing licenses.

SECTION 4. 29.563 (3) (a) 4g. and 4h. of the statutes are created to read:

29.563 (3) (a) 4g. Lifetime fishing: 30 times the fee for an annual fishing license under subd. 1.

4h. Lifetime fishing issued to a resident who has attained the age of 62: 5 times the fee for an annual fishing license under subd. 1.

SECTION 5. Effective date.

(1) This act takes effect on the March 1 that occurs during the first year beginning after the day of publication.