
Wisconsin Legislative Council

AMENDMENT MEMO



Memo published: February 19, 2020

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2019 Senate Bill 535

**Senate
Amendment 1**

2019 SENATE BILL 535

Current law prohibits a person from discharging a firearm or shooting a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the center of a roadway, subject to certain exceptions. Senate Bill 535 creates an additional exception to this prohibition that allows the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) or an agent of a city, village, town, or county authorized by DNR to discharge a firearm within 50 feet of the center of a roadway in order to dispose of an animal that is causing damage to a highway in which the roadway is located.

SENATE AMENDMENT 1

Senate Amendment 1 narrows the exception the bill creates so that it applies only to disposing of a beaver or a muskrat and only if the discharge of a firearm does not pose a risk to public safety.

The amendment also changes the definition of “damage” for the purposes of DNR’s authority to dispose of a wild animal causing damage. Under current law, “damage,” for these purposes, is defined to mean “harm to forest products; streams; roads; dams; buildings; orchards; apiaries; livestock; and commercial agricultural crops, including Christmas trees and nursery stock.” The amendment specifies that the harm to the enumerated objects must be “physical harm” and that “damage” includes flooding and culvert blockages caused by a beaver or muskrat.

BILL HISTORY

Senator Tiffany offered Senate Amendment 1 on January 31, 2020. On February 11, 2020, the Senate Committee on Transportation and Veterans Affairs voted unanimously to recommend adoption of Senate Amendment 1 and passage of Senate Bill 535, as amended.

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