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# Wisconsin Legislative Council

## ACT MEMO

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**2021 Wisconsin Act 220**  
[2021 Assembly Bill 578]

**Electing to be an Anatomical Gift Donor When Applying for a Hunting, Fishing, or Trapping License**

### BACKGROUND

Under state law, one method for an individual to make an anatomical gift before death is to affix a statement or symbol to the individual's driver's license or identification card that indicates that the individual has made an anatomical gift. The Department of Health Services (DHS) is authorized to establish a Wisconsin donor registry that contains records of anatomical gifts, and the Department of Transportation (DOT) is required to cooperate with DHS in establishing the state donor registry. In general, and subject to certain exceptions, state law authorized an individual to make an anatomical gift before death if the person was at least 15 and one-half years of age or an emancipated minor.

### 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 220

2021 Wisconsin Act 220 authorizes an individual to make an anatomical gift before death if the person is at least 15 years of age or an emancipated minor.

Act 220 requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to provide state residents who are at least 15 years old, or emancipated, and who apply for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license, an option to be included on the state donor registry. Specifically, Act 220 directs DNR to include on an application for a hunting, fishing, or trapping license a question as to whether the applicant wishes to include his or her name as a donor of an anatomical gift on the state donor registry. If the applicant answers "yes," DNR must then transmit the information to DOT and DOT is required to record the donor authorization on the state donor registry.

Act 220 requires DNR to include on the applicant's license, so that it is clearly visible if printed, a space for the applicant to indicate that he or she wishes to be a donor of an anatomical gift. The printed and signed license serves as a record of the gift. Additionally, the act requires that a part of each conservation card be printed to serve as a record of an anatomical gift, with space for the card holder to sign and indicate his or her wish to be a donor of an anatomical gift. Act 220 also requires DNR to produce, and issue upon a license applicant's request, a separate donor card that includes a space for the applicant to indicate his or her wish to be a donor of an anatomical gift and that serves as a record of the gift.

**Effective date:** April 10, 2022

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