2021 ASSEMBLY BILL 53

February 10, 2021 - Introduced by Representatives CALLAHAN, EDMING, HORLACHER, KURTZ, MAGNAFICI, ROZAR, Skowronski, SPIROS, TITTL, VANDEMEER, MOSES and BROOKS, cosponsored by Senators STAFSHOLT, COWLES, FELZKOWSKI, PETROWSKI and NASS. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage.

AN ACT to renumber 29.311; and to create 29.311 (2) of the statutes; relating to: shot shell restrictions and the hunting of fur-bearing animals.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

This bill prohibits the Department of Natural Resources from limiting the use of shot shells based on shot size for the hunting of fur-bearing animals, which current law defines to include otter, beaver, mink, muskrat, woodchuck, marten, fisher, skunk, raccoon, fox, weasel, opossum, badger, wolf, coyote, bobcat, cougar, and lynx.

Under current law, DNR is required to regulate the hunting, fishing, and trapping of wild animals. In general, a person may hunt, fish, or trap a wild animal only during the open season for that animal and only with the appropriate approval issued by DNR. However, current law provides that a landowner or occupant may hunt or trap beaver, coyotes, foxes, raccoons, woodchucks, rabbits, and squirrels (commonly referred to as nuisance wildlife) on the land at any time and without a DNR approval.

Under current rules promulgated by DNR, no person while hunting may use, possess, or have under the person’s control shot shells containing shot larger than T. Under the bill, DNR may not limit the use, possession, or control of shot shells on the basis of the size of the contained shot for the hunting of a fur-bearing animal.
The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 29.311 of the statutes is renumbered 29.311 (1).

SECTION 2. 29.311 (2) of the statutes is created to read:

29.311 (2) The department may not limit the use, possession, or control of shot shells on the basis of the size of the contained shot for the hunting of a fur-bearing animal during an open season established for that animal by the department or for the hunting of an animal as provided under s. 29.337 (1).

(END)