

**1971 Assembly Bill 279**

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**CHAPTER 179, Laws of 1971**

AN ACT to amend 29.174 (3); and to create 15.348 of the statutes, relating to making the Wisconsin conservation congress a statutory body.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

SECTION 1. 15.348 of the statutes is created to read:

**15.348 CONSERVATION CONGRESS.** The conservation congress shall be an independent organization of citizens of the state and shall serve in an advisory capacity to the natural resources board on all matters under the jurisdiction of the board. Its records, budgets, studies and surveys shall be kept and established in conjunction with the department of natural resources. Its reports shall be an independent advisory opinion of such congress.

SECTION 2. 29.174 (3) of the statutes is amended to read:

29.174 (3) The department may exercise the authority conferred upon it in sub. (2) by adopting rules either on its own motion or on petition from any group of citizens. Provided, that upon petition of not less than 1,000 citizens in case of a contemplated rule affecting the entire state or a part thereof larger than 2 counties, or of not less than 50 citizens residing in the county if but a single county or part thereof is affected, or of not less than 100 citizens residing in the 2 counties if not more than 2 counties or parts thereof are affected, the department shall conduct one or more public hearings upon such proposed rule, at a place convenient to the petitioners. Notice of such hearing shall be published in the community affected as a class 3 notice, under ch. 985. The department shall send prior written notice of any hearing held under this section to the Wisconsin conservation congress delegates for the area affected by the proposed rule.

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