

1981 Senate Bill 821

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CHAPTER 262 , Laws of 1981

AN ACT to amend 29.174 (2) (b); and to create 29.103 of the statutes, relating to regulating and limiting wild turkey hunting, creating penalties and increasing an appropriation.

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

SECTION 1. 29.103 of the statutes is created to read:

**29.103 Wild turkey hunting; zones; permits.** (1) DEFINITIONS. As used in this section:

- (a) "Family member" means a person who is related to another person as a parent, child, spouse or sibling.
- (b) "Landowner" means the owner of record of a parcel of land or the purchaser of land under a land contract who has the right to occupy and the right to use the land.
- (c) "Operator" means a resident who is residing on a parcel of land under a rental agreement, lease, agreement or contract and who is engaged in farm activities or other operations on the land.

(2) TURKEY HUNTING ZONES. The department may establish by rule wild turkey hunting zones where turkey hunting is permitted. The department may establish by rule closed zones where wild turkey hunting is prohibited. No person may hunt wild turkeys in a closed zone.

(3) TURKEY HUNTING PERMITS. (a) *Requirement.* The department may require by rule a wild turkey hunting permit for any person who hunts wild turkeys. If a wild turkey hunting permit is required, no person may hunt wild turkeys unless the person is issued that permit. The department may require by rule a wild turkey hunting permit which is valid for a designated wild turkey hunting zone for any person who hunts wild turkeys in that zone. No person may hunt wild turkeys in a wild turkey hunting zone unless the person is issued a wild turkey hunting permit which is valid for that zone.

(b) *Landowner preference.* 1. If the department requires wild turkey hunting permits, first preference in the issuance of these permits, but not to exceed 20% of all permits to be issued in any established wild turkey hunting zone, shall be given to applicants applying under the landowner preference system.

2. A qualified resident landowner may apply for a wild turkey hunting permit under the landowner preference system. A qualified resident landowner is a resident who owns at least 50 acres in one parcel in an established wild turkey hunting zone and who agrees to allow other persons to hunt wild turkeys on that land if those persons first obtain permission to hunt from the landowner. If more than one individual is the landowner of a single parcel of land, only one individual may be considered a qualified resident landowner.

3. A qualified resident landowner may assign his or her eligibility to apply for a wild turkey hunting permit under the landowner preference system to a family member, to an operator or to a family member of the operator. The department may specify the procedures and forms which are required to be followed and completed to effect this assignment. After this assignment, the assignee may apply for a wild turkey hunting permit under the landowner preference system and the qualified resident landowner may not, notwithstanding subd. 2.

(c) *Second and 3rd preference.* If the department requires wild turkey hunting permits, 2nd preference shall be given to resident applicants including resident applicants under the landowner preference system who did not receive permits and 3rd preference shall be given to nonresident applicants.

(d) *Permit limitation.* No person may apply for or receive more than one wild turkey hunting permit during one season.

(e) *Misrepresentation.* Any person who falsely represents facts on an application or other form related to a wild turkey hunting permit shall forfeit \$50, any wild turkey hunting permit issued to that person shall be revoked and no wild turkey hunting permit may be issued to that person for the current open season for hunting wild turkeys or, if the season is closed at the time judgment is rendered against that person, for the next open season for hunting wild turkeys.

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

29.174 (2) (b) The department may regulate and limit the number of hunters and the maximum harvest of wild turkeys in any area as provided under s. 29.103 or in any other manner consistent with the purposes and procedures specified under this section.

SECTION 3. **Appropriation changes; natural resources.** The appropriation to the department of natural resources under section 20.370 (8) (mu) of the statutes, as affected by the laws of 1981, is increased by \$3,000 for fiscal year 1982-83 to provide additional funds to administer regulations governing wild turkey hunting and to issue wild turkey hunting permits.

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