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## WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

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**2011 Wisconsin Act 251**  
[2011 Assembly Bill 334]

**Possession of Certain Animals  
Killed by Vehicles**

2011 Wisconsin Act 251 allows a person to possess the carcass of a bear or wild turkey accidentally killed on a highway, in the same manner that is available for a deer under current law and authorizes the possession of certain small game animals accidentally killed on a highway.

The Act allows any person who while operating a motor vehicle on a highway accidentally collides with and kills a bear or wild turkey to take possession of the carcass if the person either has the carcass tagged by a law enforcement officer or contacts a law enforcement officer and the officer approves removing the carcass and provides instructions for getting a free tag. If the driver does not want the carcass, it may be taken by any other person who is present at the scene of the accident.

The Act also allows a person who while operating a motor vehicle on a highway accidentally collides with and kills a small game animal to take possession of the carcass if the animal is killed during the open season for that animal; the animal is not a bobcat, fisher, or otter; and the person possesses an approval that authorizes the hunting or trapping of the kind of small game animal killed. If the driver does not want the carcass, it may be taken by any other person at the scene of the accident if the person possesses an approval that authorizes the hunting or trapping of the kind of animal killed and it is the open season for that kind of animal. The Department of Natural Resources may not charge a fee to possess the carcass under these circumstances and no tag is required.

**Effective date:** Act 251 takes effect on April 20, 2012.

**Prepared by:** Rachel Letzing, Senior Staff Attorney

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This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature's Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.