



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2001 Assembly Bill 635

Assembly Amendment 1

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Current law [s. 943.76, Stats.] prohibits a person from intentionally introducing a contagious or infectious disease into livestock without the consent of the owner of the livestock. Current law also prohibits a person from intentionally introducing a contagious or infectious disease into wild deer without the consent of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). A person who violates either of these prohibitions is guilty of a Class C felony (punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 15 years, or both).

2001 Assembly Bill 635 amends current law to prohibit threatening to introduce a contagious or infectious disease into livestock without the consent of the owner of the livestock, or into wild deer without the consent of DNR if: (1) the owner of the livestock or DNR is aware of the threat and reasonably believes that the person making the threat will attempt to carry out the threat; or (2) the owner of the livestock or DNR is unaware of the threat, but it would be reasonable for the owner or DNR, if apprised of the threat, to believe that the person making the threat will attempt to carry out the threat. A person who violates this prohibition is guilty of a Class D felony (punishable by a fine not to exceed \$10,000 or imprisonment not to exceed 10 years, or both).

Assembly Amendment 1 adds “poultry” to the current definition of “livestock” in s. 943.76 (1), Stats. As revised, the definition reads:

“Livestock” means cattle, horses, swine, sheep, goats, farm-raised deer, as defined in s. 95.001 (1) (a), poultry and other animals used or to be used in the production of food, fiber, or other commercial products.

The bill, as affected by Assembly Amendment 1, was recommended on January 23, 2002, for passage by the Assembly Committee on Criminal Justice on a vote of Ayes, 14; Noes, 0. On February 5, 2002, the Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed Assembly Bill 635, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 97; Noes, 0.

On February 28, 2002, the Senate Environmental Resources Committee recommended concurrence in Assembly Bill 635 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0.

SPH:wu:rv:tl;tl