



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2009 Senate Bill 167

**Senate
Amendments 1, 2, 3, and 4**

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Current law sets the minimum age for hunting at 12 years of age. A person under the age of 12 may possess a firearm only if enrolled in a hunter's education class, is carrying the firearm to or from the class, cased, unloaded, and under the supervision of a parent or guardian, or is handling or operating the firearm during the class under supervision of the instructor.

Senate Bill 167, among other things, creates an exception from the restriction on the possession and control of a firearm by a person under age 12 if he or she is engaged in target practice and is accompanied by a parent or guardian, or accompanied by a person who is age 18 or over and designated by the parent or guardian. **Senate Amendment 3** specifies that "target practice" includes trap shooting or a similar sport shooting activity regardless of whether the activity involves shooting at a fixed or moving target.

Senate Bill 167, among other things, creates a hunting mentorship program. One requirement under this program is that the mentor and the mentee may jointly have only one firearm, or if hunting with a crossbow, only one crossbow, in their possession or control while hunting. **Senate Amendment 2** adds the requirement that the mentor and mentee may jointly have only one bow in their possession or control while hunting.

Senate Bill 167, if enacted, would take effect on the first day after the date of publication. **Senate Amendment 1** provides that the bill, if enacted, would take effect on September 1, 2009.

Senate Bill 167 also provides for the same reduced fees for 10- and 11-year old hunters as are provided for 12- to 17-year olds for small game, deer, and archery licenses and sports and conservation patron approvals. **Senate Amendment 4** would further reduce fees for 10- and 11-year olds, setting the fee for most individual hunting approvals at \$4.25.

Legislative History

On May 20, 2009, Senate Amendments 1, 2, and 3 were offered by Senator Holperin. On May 21, 2009, the Senate Committee on Transportation, Tourism, Forestry, and Natural Resources recommended adoption of Senate Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 1; Senate Amendment 2 on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 3; and Senate Amendment 3 on a vote of Ayes, 6, Noes, 1. The committee recommended passage of the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 6; Noes, 1.

On June 8, 2009, Senate Amendment 4 was offered by Senator Holperin. On June 9, 2009, the Senate adopted Senate Amendments 1-4 by voice vote and passed Senate Bill 167, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 27; Noes, 6.

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