State of Wisconsin
2013 – 2014 LEGISLATURE

2013 SENATE BILL 164

April 30, 2013 – Introduced by Senators LEIBHAM, L. TAYLOR, TIFFANY and VINEHOUT, cosponsored by Representatives JACQUE, BROOKS, CZAJA, KLEEFISCH, MURPHY and RIPP. Referred to Natural Resources.

1   AN ACT *to amend* 29.001 (30) and 29.001 (36); and *to create* 29.192 (6) of the

2   statutes; **relating to:** requiring an open season for woodchucks.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently, by rule, prohibits hunting and trapping woodchucks without DNR's authorization by designating the woodchuck as a "protected wild animal."

Under this bill, a woodchuck is defined as a "game animal" and as a "fur–bearing animal." As a result, a person may hunt woodchucks under the authority of a small game hunting license and trap woodchucks under a trapping license. Also under this bill, DNR is required to establish an open season for woodchucks that begins on March 1 of each year and ends on the following December 31. DNR may not impose a bag or possession limit for this season.

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

3   SECTION 1. 29.001 (30) of the statutes is amended to read:

4   29.001 **(30)** "Fur–bearing ~~animals~~ animal" includes otter, beaver, mink,

5   muskrat, woodchuck, marten, fisher, skunk, raccoon, fox, weasel, opossum, badger,

6   wolf, coyote, bobcat, cougar, and lynx.

1   **SECTION 2.** 29.001 (36) of the statutes is amended to read:

2   29.001 **(36)** "Game ~~animals~~ <u>animal</u>" includes deer, moose, elk, bear, ~~rabbits,~~

3   ~~squirrels,~~ <u>rabbit, squirrel, woodchuck,</u> fox, and raccoon.

4   **SECTION 3.** 29.192 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

5   29.192 **(6)** The department shall establish an open season for hunting and

6   trapping woodchucks that begins on March 1 of each year and ends on the following

7   December 31. The department may not impose a bag or possession limit for this

8   season.

9   **(END)**