



State of Wisconsin  
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-4631/1  
ZDW:wlj

## 2017 SENATE BILL 509

November 6, 2017 - Introduced by Senators MOULTON and OLSEN, cosponsored by Representatives QUINN, STAFSHOLT, BORN, HORLACHER, KLEEFISCH, LOUDENBECK, MURSAU, RIPP and SKOWRONSKI. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry.

1     **AN ACT to renumber and amend** 29.331 (1); **to amend** 29.331 (5) (a) and 29.351  
2           (1r); and **to create** 29.241 (5), 29.241 (6), 29.331 (1) (b) and 29.563 (6) (a) 1s. of  
3           the statutes; **relating to:** youth trapping, creating a mentored trapping  
4           license, restrictions on taking or appropriating a trap or its contents, and  
5           requirements for tagging traps.

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### ***Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau***

This bill authorizes a person under the age of 16 to engage in trapping without obtaining a trapping license or a trapping education certificate of accomplishment if the person is trapping under the supervision of a licensed trapper.

Current law generally requires a person engaging in trapping to obtain a trapping license from the Department of Natural Resources. Current law also prohibits a person from obtaining a trapping license unless he or she holds a valid certificate of accomplishment indicating that he or she has successfully completed a trapper education course.

This bill creates a mentored trapping license, which authorizes the holder to engage in trapping while in contact with a qualified mentor. Under the bill, "contact" means visual or voice contact without the aid of any mechanical or electronic amplifying device other than a hearing aid. To qualify as a trapping mentor, a person must 1) be at least 18 years of age, 2) be the parent or guardian or authorized by the parent or guardian of the person being mentored, 3) be in contact with the person being mentored at all times, and 4) hold a current valid trapping license or be authorized to trap without holding a trapping license.

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Current law generally prohibits a person from taking another person's trap or its contents. The bill creates exceptions to this prohibition for persons under the supervision of a licensed trapper or receiving instruction from a mentor.

Current law requires each trap used under a trapping license to be tagged with a metal stamp containing certain identifying information. The bill allows more than one licensed trapper to operate a trap and requires the trap to be tagged with the metal stamp of each trap operator. The bill also provides that a trap being used by a mentor and a person being mentored may be tagged by either or both persons. A trap tagged only by a person being mentored may be operated by that person and his or her mentor, but only if both persons are present.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** 29.241 (5) of the statutes is created to read:

2           29.241 (5) YOUTH TRAPPING. A person under the age of 16 may engage in  
3 trapping under the supervision of a licensed trapper without holding a trapping  
4 license or a certificate of accomplishment under s. 29.597 (5).

5           **SECTION 2.** 29.241 (6) of the statutes is created to read:

6           29.241 (6) MENTORED TRAPPING LICENSE. (a) In this section:

7           1. "Contact" has the meaning given in s. 29.324 (1) (a).

8           2. "Mentor" means a person who provides trapping instruction to a mentee.

9           3. "Mentee" means a person holding a mentored trapping license who is  
10 receiving trapping instruction from a mentor.

11           (b) A mentored trapping license shall be issued subject to ss. 29.024 and 54.25  
12 (2) (c) 1. d. by the department to any resident applying for this license or to any  
13 nonresident of this state who applies for this license and who resides in a state that  
14 allows nonresidents of that state to trap within that state.

15           (c) A mentored trapping license authorizes trapping by a mentee while in  
16 contact with a mentor who meets the following qualifications:

17           1. The person is 18 years of age or older.

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1           2. The person is the parent or guardian of the mentee or is authorized by the  
2           parent or guardian to serve as a mentor. This requirement does not apply to a person  
3           serving as a mentor for a person who is 18 years of age or older.

4           3. At all times when serving as a mentor, the person is in contact with the  
5           mentee.

6           4. The person holds a current valid trapping license or is authorized to trap  
7           without holding a trapping license as provided under s. 29.337.

8           (d) A person may be issued only 2 mentored trapping licenses in his or her  
9           lifetime, and each mentored trapping license shall be valid for only one trapping  
10          season.

11          (e) A mentor under this subsection may take more than one person trapping  
12          at a time if the mentor determines he or she can adequately and safely serve as a  
13          mentor for all of the persons he or she takes trapping at one time.

14          (f) A person holding a mentored trapping license is not eligible to receive a  
15          harvest tag for trapping purposes for any species for which the department limits the  
16          number of available tags but may assist his or her mentor in the trapping of a species  
17          for which the department limits the number of available tags.

18          **SECTION 3.** 29.331 (1) of the statutes is renumbered 29.331 (1) (a) and amended  
19          to read:

20          29.331 (1) (a) ~~Each~~ Except as provided under par. (b), each trap used under a  
21          trapping license shall be tagged with a metal tag stamped with the name and address  
22          or customer identification number of the operator of the trap. If a trap is operated  
23          by more than one licensed trapper, the trap shall be tagged with the metal stamp of  
24          each operator of the trap. All untagged traps shall be seized and confiscated, and the  
25          owner or person using or attending the untagged traps shall be punished as provided

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1 under s. 29.971 (4) and (12). This paragraph does not apply to a person under the  
2 age of 16 trapping under the supervision of a licensed trapper as provided in s. 29.241  
3 (5).

4 **SECTION 4.** 29.331 (1) (b) of the statutes is created to read:

5 29.331 (1) (b) Each trap used by a person who is trapping with a qualified  
6 mentor as provided under s. 29.241 (6) shall be tagged with a metal tag stamped with  
7 the name and address or customer identification number of the person using the  
8 trap, the qualified mentor, or both. If the trap is tagged only by a person who is  
9 trapping with a qualified mentor, the trap may be operated only by that person or by  
10 the mentor and only when both are present.

11 **SECTION 5.** 29.331 (5) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

12 29.331 (5) (a) No person may molest, take or appropriate a trap belonging to  
13 another person when the trap is lawfully placed. No person may take or appropriate  
14 the animal or contents of any lawfully placed trap belonging to another person. This  
15 paragraph does not apply to a person taking a trap belonging to a supervising trapper  
16 or mentor, or taking the contents of that trap, if the person is acting under the  
17 direction of a supervising trapper under s. 29.241 (5) or a mentor providing  
18 instruction under s. 29.241 (6).

19 **SECTION 6.** 29.351 (1r) of the statutes is amended to read:

20 29.351 (1r) No person may possess the raw skin of any muskrat, mink, otter,  
21 fisher, or pine marten at any time unless the person is the holder of a valid scientific  
22 collector permit, fur dealer license, trapping license, mentored trapping license, or  
23 resident conservation patron license. No license is required for a person breeding,  
24 raising, and producing domestic fur-bearing animals in captivity, as defined in s.

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1 29.627, or for a person authorized to take muskrats on a cranberry marsh under a  
2 permit issued to the person by the department.

3 **SECTION 7.** 29.563 (6) (a) 1s. of the statutes is created to read:

4 29.563 **(6)** (a) 1s. Mentored trapping license: \$9.25.

5 **SECTION 8. Effective dates.** This act takes effect on the day after publication,  
6 except as follows:

7 (1) The treatment of sections 29.241 (6), 29.331 (1) (b), 29.351 (1r), and 29.563  
8 (6) (a) 1s. of the statutes takes effect on September 1, 2018.

9 (END)