



ANDRÉ JACQUE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 2nd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

(608) 266-9870
Fax: (608) 282-3602
Toll-Free: (888) 534-0002
Rep.Jacque@legis.wi.gov

P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708-8952

TO: Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
FROM: Representative André Jacque
DATE: May 27, 2015
RE: Assembly Bill 44 – Sportsman permit transfers for the disabled, active duty military, and Purple Heart recipients

Chairman Ott and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Assembly Bill 44. I am proud to bring forward this strong bi-partisan legislation, which will give the disabled, our active duty military and Purple Heart recipients an opportunity to more fully participate in Wisconsin's sporting heritage. These proposed changes passed the Wisconsin Conservation Congress overwhelmingly during the DNR's 2013 spring hearings and have been endorsed by the WDNR Disabled Advisory Council, Wisconsin Department of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the Military Order of the Purple Heart, as well as the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation. The language of AB 44 has been reviewed and endorsed by the WCC's Executive Board for legislative approval and provides an opportunity to recognize the contributions of the disabled and those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military to defend our freedom.

Provision 1 (WCC question 85, passed with 78% support, and in all 72 counties, 3459 to 976) would allow the transfer of a valid fish and game permit from a successful permit holder to a disabled resident for a "first time" or "one time" harvest opportunity, as the length of time it takes to secure permits can take a number of years. This extended period of time for acquisition may prevent some disabled residents with deteriorating health from participating in one of these harvest opportunities.

Provision 2 (WCC question 71, passed with 82% support, and in all 72 counties, 3753 to 802) would allow a person who is issued a Class A bear license to transfer that license to a person who was awarded a Purple Heart or to a person who is serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces (currently prohibited). The bill provides that a Purple Heart recipient or service member may be the transferee of a Class A bear license only once during his or her lifetime. The transfer of a license to a Purple Heart recipient or service member would not affect the number of preference points the transferee may have previously acquired under the cumulative preference system.

The Senate companion to this legislation passed the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee on a unanimous 5-0 vote earlier this month, and I appreciate the bi-partisan co-sponsorship of this proposal by seven members of this committee.

When I speak to disabled sportsmen, including disabled veterans, they speak to the freedom and ability to feel "normal" that Wisconsin hunting brings. The ability to provide for their families and the ability to make memories they can share with friends and family for a lifetime. Thank you for your consideration of this legislation to give them this chance.



Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage
*Approval Transfer to Disabled Permit Holders, Purple Heart Recipients, and Active Duty
U.S. Armed Forces Members*
2015 Assembly Bill 44

Good morning Chairman Ott and committee members. My name is Linda Olver, Policy Advisor in the Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Thank you for the opportunity to testify for informational purposes on Assembly Bill 44, which expands eligibility for the transfer of specific hunting, trapping and sturgeon spearing approvals.

State law generally prohibits a person from transferring their hunting, trapping, or fishing approval to another person. Statute provides certain exemptions to this prohibition, such as allowing certain limited draw approvals to be transferred to a youth if that youth has 1) not previously received that transferred type of approval; and 2) the youth is otherwise eligible to use the approval. Among the approvals that may be transferred to youth are the Class A bear, spring and fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, wolf and Upriver Sturgeon spearing approvals.

In 2014, the department fulfilled 647 requests to transfer these limited draw permits to a youth. Wolf harvest approvals may also be transferred to another person, but are unique in that they may be transferred to a youth or an adult otherwise authorized to use the license. The department fulfilled 123 requests to transfer a wolf harvest license in 2014, resulting in 770 total approval transfer requests for the 2014 license year.

AB 44 proposes to expand the list of those who may receive a transfer of certain approvals to allow the transfer to a person who holds a Class A, B, C, or D disabled hunting permit. In addition, this bill proposes to allow a person to transfer their Class A bear license to a person awarded the Purple Heart medal or to a person serving on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces.

If enacted, the provisions of AB 44 would increase hunting, trapping, and sturgeon spearing opportunities for disabled hunting permit holders, Purple Heart medal recipients, and active duty service members.

Thank you for your time.

I hope you find this information helpful. I am happy to try answering questions you may have regarding AB 44.

From: Keith Pamperin [mailto:kjpamperin@aol.com]
To: Rep.Jacque
Subject: SB 20/AB 44 Hearing

Dear Rep Andre Jacque

As a disabled Hunter and Angler and a member of Challenge the Outdoors Inc. www.CTOforMe.org and Adaptive Sportsman Inc. organizations that sponsor hunting and fishing events for people with disabilities, I am writing to encourage you and members of the Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee to support AB 44/SB 20 which would allow the transfer of Hunting and Fishing Tags to persons with disabled hunting permits in addition to youth.

This legislative action was initiated in 2013 when two separate hunters contacted Challenge the Outdoors Inc. with an offer to transfer their bear tags to disabled veterans. We found that current statutes only allowed the transfer to youth. Often persons with disabilities have health issues that are deteriorating rapidly and waiting for the opportunity to secure a tag on their own is not an option.

The WDNR Disabled Advisory Council, Challenge the Outdoors Inc. and the Wisconsin Wild Life Federation have gone on record supporting this bill.

I understand that the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage will be holding a hearing on AB 44/SB 20 Wednesday, May 27. I wish to have my support and the support of Challenge the Outdoors Inc., Adaptive Sportsman Inc. entered in support of this bill.

I also ask that you encourage the Chairman and members of the Assembly Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage Committee to move AB 44/SB 20 forward.

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith A. Pamperin
Volunteer Director
Challenge the Outdoors Inc.
1499 Rockdale Street
Green Bay WI 54304
920-494-3990
kjpamperin@aol.com