



ANDRÉ JACQUE

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TO: Members of the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
FROM: Representative André Jacque
DATE: April 7, 2015
RE: Senate Bill 20

Chairman Cowles and Committee Members,

Thank you for holding this hearing on Senate Bill 20. 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 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 SB 20 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.

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.

From: Keith Pamperin [<mailto:kjpamperin@aol.com>]

Sent: Monday, April 06, 2015 7:56 PM

To: Rep.Jacque

Subject: SB 20 Hearing Tuesday 4/7

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 Committees to support AB 44 and the The Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee to support 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 Senate \natural resources and Energy Committee will be holding a hearing on SB 20 Tuesday April 7th. 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 schedule AB 44 for hearing and move forward for consideration

Thank you for your consideration.

Keith A. Pamperin
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Tuesday, April 7, 2015

The Honorable Robert Cowles
Chair, Committee on Natural Resources and Energy
Room 118 South, State Capitol
Madison, WI 53708

RE: Senate Bill 20 relating to transfer of certain fish and game approvals to persons with disabilities and the transfer of Class A bear licenses to persons awarded the Purple Heart or serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.

Dear Chair Cowles and members of the Senate Natural Resources and Energy Committee:

At the 2012 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Informational Hearing & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting, the Congress asked **Question 63 - Transfer of License/Permit to Senior or Disabled Person:** *Would you support legislation to allow the transfer of a valid permit from a successful permit holder to a senior (65 years of age or older) or disabled resident?* This question passed in seventy-one counties, failed in one county, and was supported by the Conservation Congress at their annual convention in May.

At the 2013 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting, the Congress asked **Question 71 - Transfer Class A Bear Harvest Permit:** *Are you in favor of a Class A Bear Harvest Permit holder to have the ability to transfer their Bear Harvest Permit to any currently active duty Armed Forces member or Purple Heart recipient for a once in a lifetime transfer?* This question passed in all seventy-two counties, and was supported by the Conservation Congress at their annual convention.

The Congress also asked **Question 85 - Transfer of license/ permit:** *Would you support legislation to allow the transfer of a valid permit from a successful permit holder to a senior (65 years of age or older) or disabled resident for a "first time" or "one time" harvest opportunity?* This question passed in all seventy-two counties as well, and was also supported by the Conservation Congress at the annual convention.

At the 2014 Department of Natural Resources Annual Spring Fish & Wildlife Public Hearing & Wisconsin Conservation Congress Annual Spring County Conservation Meeting, the Congress asked

Question 37 - Transferring of license or permits: *Would you support legislation that would allow a person authorized to purchase a spring turkey, fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, upriver sturgeon spearing, class A bear hunting, sharp-tailed grouse, Horicon goose or wolf harvest license or permit to transfer that license or permit to anyone that is eligible to use the license or permit?* This question passed in eleven counties and was rejected in sixty-one counties. This question was not supported by the Conservation Congress at their annual convention.

The Congress also asked **Question 38 - Transferring of license or permits**: *Would you support legislation that would allow a person authorized to purchase a spring turkey, fall turkey, bobcat, fisher, otter, upriver sturgeon spearing, class A bear hunting, sharp-tailed grouse, Horicon goose or wolf harvest license or permit to transfer that license or permit to any immediate relative (husband, wife, son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter) that is eligible to use the license or permit?* This question passed in sixty-two counties, failed in ten counties, and was supported by the Conservation Congress at their annual convention.

The Wisconsin Conservation Congress supports the transfer of certain fish and game approvals to persons with disabilities. We also support the transfer of Class A bear licenses to persons awarded the Purple Heart or serving on active duty in the U.S. armed forces.

On behalf of our constituents that attended and voted in favor of Question 38 in 2014, we respectfully request that you consider an amendment that allows the transfer of these harvest permits to any immediate relative (husband, wife, son, daughter, grandson or granddaughter) that is eligible to use the license or permit.

Respectfully,



Rob Bohmann, Chair
Wisconsin Conservation Congress

As established by Wisconsin State Statutes, the Wisconsin Conservation Congress is officially recognized as the only natural resources advisory body in the state where citizens elect delegates to represent their interests on natural resources issues on a local and statewide level to the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources. Their mission is to represent the citizens of Wisconsin by working with the Natural Resources Board and the Department of Natural Resources to effectively manage Wisconsin's greatest asset, our abundant natural resources, for present and future generations to enjoy.



Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Energy

Approval Transfer to Disabled Permit Holders, Purple Heart Recipients, and Active Duty U.S. Armed Forces Members 2015 Senate Bill 20

Good morning Chairman Cowles 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 Senate Bill 20, 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.

SB 20 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 SB 20 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 SB 20.