



# TREIG E. PRONSCHINSKE

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 92<sup>nd</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

MAJORITY SERGEANT AT ARMS

## Testimony on Assembly Bill 799

Hello Chairman Mursau and members of the Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks, and Outdoor Recreation. I, along with Senator Romaine Quinn (R – 25) are excited to talk about Assembly Bill 799 (AB 799)

This bill would raise the nonresident archer and crossbow hunting license fee. This past budget cycle, the nonresident deer hunting firearm license was raised to \$197.25, but nonresident archer and crossbow licenses stayed at \$162.25. AB 799 would increase these two licenses to \$197.25 to equal the amount that a nonresident deer hunting firearm license is.

Wisconsin is a large hunting state for a lot of individuals. Our state obviously has a lot of hunters and outdoorsmen in it but what is unique about Wisconsin alone, is the amount of out-of-state hunters and outdoorsmen that come here during hunting season. This season is a large part of our state's tourism and it is important that we continue to benefit from this part of the year.

Senator Quinn and I are very excited about this bill idea and we hope there will be an array of bipartisan support of this bill. We are thankful to have worked alongside the DNR on an amendment in making sure this bill gets passed into law and we are excited to do the continued hard work it takes to make this bill happen.

Deer hunting has always been a big portion of our state's economy and archery and crossbow hunting is a large part of our state's economy. I have been working on a variety of sporting heritage and outdoorsmen bill this past year and this is important to me. I am honored to work alongside Sen. Quinn and I believe we have a great idea here.



## Assembly Committee on Forestry, Parks and Outdoor Recreation

### *2023 Assembly Bill 799*

### *Nonresident Archer and Crossbow Hunting License Fees*

*January 30, 2024*

Good afternoon, Chair Mursau, and members of the Committee. My name is Katherine Walker and I am the Customer and Outreach Services Policy Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, for informational purposes, on Assembly Bill 799 (AB 799), related to nonresident archer and crossbow hunting license fees.

Current law establishes a variety of hunting, trapping and fishing approvals and specifies fees that are, in general, lower for residents than nonresidents. Until July 6, 2023, the nonresident archer license and the nonresident crossbow license fees were each \$157.25 under the statutory fee schedule in Chapter 29 of the Wisconsin statutes. Both of these licenses are subject to a \$0.75 issuing fee and a \$2.00 wildlife damage surcharge, for a total of \$2.75 in fees. This brought the total amount owed to \$160.00 when a nonresident customer purchased either of these licenses.

Additionally, if a customer wishes to upgrade either their nonresident archer license or their nonresident crossbow license, customers can upgrade their current license to include the nonresident license they do not have as long as both licenses are issued in the same hunting season. Under Wis. Stat. § 29.563(2g)(b) and (d), this upgrade fee is statutorily set at \$2.25 plus a \$0.75 issuing fee, for a total amount owed by the customer at \$3.00.

Under 2023 Wisconsin Act 19 (effective July 7, 2023), both the nonresident archer license and the nonresident crossbow license fees were increased \$5.00 to \$162.25. This act did not alter the issuing fee or wildlife damage surcharge applied to these two licenses. With the \$0.75 issuing fee and the \$2.00 wildlife damage surcharge, the total amount paid by the customer for either nonresident license is currently \$165.00. This act did not alter the cost of the nonresident archer upgrade or the nonresident crossbow upgrade, which remains \$3.00.

For the license year 2023-2024 (as of November 26, 2023), the department sold 5,882 nonresident crossbow licenses and 9,638 nonresident archer licenses. The department also sold 3,199 nonresident crossbow license upgrades and 667 nonresident archer license upgrades.

Under the provisions of AB 799, both the nonresident archer license and the nonresident crossbow license fees will increase \$35.00 to \$197.25. This bill does not alter the current \$0.75 issuing fee or the \$2.00 wildlife damage surcharge applied to these two licenses. Given this, the total amount paid by a customer to purchase either a nonresident archer license or a nonresident crossbow license would increase to \$200.00 (which is consistent with the current fee cost of the nonresident gun deer hunting license). This act also does not alter the cost of the nonresident archer upgrade or the nonresident crossbow upgrade, which remains \$3.00.

The department will incur one-time costs of \$4,264.00 or less to make necessary changes to the GoWild licensing system, train both customer service representatives and retail license agents, and to update department web pages and hunting, trapping, and fishing regulations.

Finally, AB 799 does not include an effective date, which means if this bill is passed, its provisions would be effective one day after the relevant act's date of publication meaning not all non-residents would pay the same fee in the license year. We would like to thank the authors for their willingness to work with us to include an effective date of March 1<sup>st</sup> so the bill would be effective at the beginning of the new license year.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, we would like to thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.