



2021 SENATE BILL 191

March 10, 2021 - Introduced by Senators STAFSHOLT, BRADLEY, FELZKOWSKI, MARKLEIN and STROEBEL, cosponsored by Representatives EDMING, SKOWRONSKI, CALLAHAN, KNODL, KURTZ, MAGNAFICI, MOSES, MURSAU, ROZAR, TRANEL, VANDERMEER and WICHGERS. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business and Rural Issues.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.885 (1) (a) and 167.31 (2) (d); and *to create* 167.31 (4) (fm)
2 of the statutes; **relating to:** the authority to shoot a beaver or muskrat causing
3 damage to a highway.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources may remove or authorize the removal of a wild animal that is causing damage or that is causing a nuisance. This bill specifies that “damage” includes flooding and culvert blockages caused by a beaver or muskrat.

Under current law, generally, the DNR removal of a wild animal may involve capturing, shooting, setting a trap for, relocating, or otherwise destroying or disposing of the wild animal. However, current law generally prohibits anyone from discharging a firearm within 50 feet of the center of a roadway. This bill adds an exception to this prohibition for DNR or an agent of a city, village, town, or county authorized by DNR to shoot a beaver or muskrat that is causing damage to a highway in which the roadway is located if the discharge does not pose a risk to public safety.

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

4 **SECTION 1.** 29.885 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

