



---

---

**WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL  
ACT MEMO**

---

---

<b>2003 Wisconsin Act 244</b> [2003 Assembly Bill 200]	<b>Sighting of Firearms</b>
2003 Acts: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/">www.legis.state.wi.us/2003/data/acts/</a>	Act Memos: <a href="http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm">www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/act_memo/act_memo.htm</a>

An administrative rule promulgated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) prohibits the possession of a gun during the 24-hour period prior to the opening date for hunting deer with guns, in an area where there is an open season for hunting deer with guns, unless the gun is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case. The rule includes an exception for “target shooting at established ranges.” [See s. NR 10.09 (2), Wis. Adm. Code.] The purpose of the rule is to facilitate enforcement of the prohibition of hunting out of season by hunters who attempt to get an early start on the deer gun season.

2003 Wisconsin Act 244 creates a limited exception to this rule. Act 244 provides that the DNR may not promulgate or enforce a rule that prohibits a person from sighting a firearm on land owned or leased by that person or a member of that person’s immediate family during the 24-hour period prior to the opening date for hunting deer with guns, in an area where there is an open season for hunting deer with guns. “Immediate family” means persons who are related as spouses, as siblings, or as parent and child.

Except for this limited exception, the rule continues in effect. For example, on the day before the deer gun season, a person may sight a firearm on land which is not owned by that person or a member of that person’s immediate family, if the land has an “established range.” The DNR’s interpretation of “established range” allows establishment of a fairly simple shooting facility where shooting is the major purpose.

**Effective Date:** This Act takes effect on April 28, 2004.

**Prepared by:** Mark C. Patronsky, Senior Staff Attorney

April 21, 2004

MCP:jal:tlu

---

---

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information,  
consult the text of the law and related legislative documents.