



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL ACT MEMO

2011 Wisconsin Act 28
[2011 Senate Bill 72]

Bear Hunting

Before the passage of Act 28, a person holding a Class B bear license was authorized to:

- Assist a holder of a Class A bear license in hunting bear by tracking bear, trailing bear, or otherwise engaging in an activity that contributes to locating bear and that is authorized by rule by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).
- Bait bear.
- Train a dog to track bear, to trail bear, or to otherwise engage in an activity that contributes to locating bear and that is authorized by rule by the DNR.

2011 Wisconsin Act 28 makes the following changes with respect to a Class B bear license:

- Authorizes a Class B license holder to pursue a bear, provided the Class B license holder does not shoot, shoot at, capture, take, or kill the bear unless authorized as provided in the Act.
- Provides that a Class B license holder may shoot and kill a bear that was shot, but not killed, by a Class A bear license holder if the Class B license holder was hunting in the same hunting party as the Class A license holder at the point of kill, if the Class A license holder possesses a current, unused carcass tag authorized for use on the bear; and if killing the bear is necessary to protect the safety of other members of the hunting party or the public. This section is also referred to as the “backup shooter” provision.
- Requires the DNR to allow a Class B license holder to train a dog to track, trail, and locate bear during an open season that allows a Class A license holder to hunt bear with the use of a dog.

This memo provides a brief description of the Act. For more detailed information, consult the text of the law and related legislative documents at the Legislature’s Web site at: <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/>.

- Allows a person who is under age 16 to engage in the activities authorized under a Class B license without holding the license.
- Creates a new provision that authorizes a person to engage in activities authorized by a Class B license without holding the license during the weekend of the third Saturday in August.
- Specifies that a Class B license holder who kills a bear under the circumstances provided in the Act must ensure that the person for whom the bear was killed attaches a current validated carcass tag.
- Eliminates the requirement that the DNR issue a back tag with a Class B bear license.
- Eliminates the requirement that a Class B license holder display a back tag.

Effective date: July 2, 2011.

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