



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2013 Assembly Bill 194

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

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2013 Assembly Bill 194, as passed by the Assembly, requires the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to create a crossbow hunting season for residents and nonresidents.

Current Law

Current law authorizes the DNR to establish open hunting seasons that allow the hunting of specified game animals. If the DNR establishes an open season for hunting certain game animals with a firearm, the season must also be open for hunting those game animals with a crossbow and a bow and arrow. If the DNR establishes an open season for hunting those animals with a bow and arrow but not with a firearm, the DNR may not open that season for hunting with a crossbow except by a person who is at least 65 years old or is disabled and holds a permit from the DNR that authorizes the use of a crossbow. [s. 29.014 (1m), Stats.]

2013 Assembly Bill 194, as Passed by the Assembly

Assembly Bill 194, as passed by the Assembly, eliminates the age and disability requirements for using a crossbow and, instead, requires the DNR to establish new resident and nonresident crossbow hunting licenses that may be obtained by hunters of any legal age and without regard to disability. The bill also requires that if the DNR establishes an open bow and arrow season for a species, it must also open a concurrent crossbow season for hunting the same species. If the DNR requires a person who kills an animal to register the animal with the DNR, then the bill requires that the DNR must make a record of the type of weapon that was used to kill the animal.

The bill also allows a hunter who holds a crossbow license that purchases an archer license, or a hunter who holds an archer license that purchases a crossbow license, to obtain the second license at a reduced fee of \$3.00. It also provides that resident hunters under 18 years of age may purchase a crossbow license at a reduced rate, similar to the resident junior archer license, and provides that the fee for a duplicate of a reduced fee archer or crossbow license may not exceed the original reduced fee.

Lastly, the bill prohibits a person born on or after January 1, 1973, from obtaining a crossbow hunting license unless the person completes a hunter education or bow hunter education course.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 requires a crossbow season for a species established by the DNR to be concurrent with the bow and arrow season for that species only for the 2014-15 and 2015-16 hunting seasons. After these two seasons, the crossbow season dates could be changed by the DNR by administrative rule. The substitute amendment also specifies that the DNR may determine, by rule, the open seasons during which antlerless deer harvest tags are valid and the types of weapons authorized to be used under such permits, and allows the DNR to promulgate temporary rules to initially establish the expanded crossbow hunting opportunities under the bill.

Assembly Action

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 added language to the bill to clarify that bow and arrow and crossbow seasons are to run concurrently.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 provides that if the DNR requires a person who kills an animal to register the animal with the DNR, then the DNR must make a record of the type of weapon that was used to kill the animal. This provision replaced a provision in the bill that required a person to specify the type of weapon used to kill an animal on the tag attached to the animal carcass.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 added all of the following provisions to the bill: allowing residents under 18 years of age to purchase a crossbow license at a reduced rate; specifying that the fee for a duplicate of a reduced fee archer or crossbow license may not exceed the original reduced fee; and requiring that a hunter born on or after January 1, 1973, must generally complete a hunter or bow hunter education course to be eligible to purchase a crossbow hunting license.

Bill History

The Assembly adopted Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 95; Noes, 0.

Senate Substitute Amendment 1 was offered by Senator Farrow. On August 22, 2013, the Senate Committee on Natural Resources recommended adoption of Senate Substitute Amendment 1 on a vote of Ayes, 5; Noes, 0, and concurrence in the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 4; Noes, 1.

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