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2007 ASSEMBLY BILL 479

August 7, 2007 - Introduced by Representatives Albers, Friske, Hahn and Jeskewitz, cosponsored by Senator Schultz. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources.

AN ACT to create 901.08 of the statutes; relating to: the admissibility of evidence of the discovery of an endangered or threatened species during the course of certain proceedings.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, an endangered species is defined as a species whose continued existence as a component of this state's wild animals or wild plants is determined by the Department of Natural Resources to be in jeopardy on the basis of scientific evidence. A threatened species is defined as a species of wild animal or wild plant that appears likely to become endangered on the basis of scientific evidence. This bill provides that evidence of the discovery of an endangered or threatened species by a person who is on the private property of another is not admissible during the course of a civil, criminal, legislative, or administrative proceeding unless certain conditions apply. The evidence is admissible if the person who made the discovery gave notice to the property owner by certified mail at least 48 hours before entering the property that he or she intended to enter the property. The bill requires the notice to be dated in a manner that shows that it was mailed at least seven days before the person entered the property.

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

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Section 1.	901.08	of the	statutes is	created to	read.
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- 901.08 Admissibility of evidence of the discovery of an endangered or threatened species.
 - (1) In this section:
 - (a) "Endangered species" has the meaning given in s. 29.604 (2) (a).
 - (b) "Threatened species" has the meaning given in s. 29.604 (2) (b).
- (2) Evidence of the discovery of an endangered or threatened species by a person while on the private property of another is not admissible during the course of a civil or criminal proceeding, a legislative proceeding, or an administrative proceeding, unless the person gave notice to the property owner by certified mail at least 48 hours before entering the property that he or she intended to enter that property. A notice given under this subsection meets the requirements of this subsection only if it is dated in a manner that demonstrates that it was mailed to the property owner at least 7 days before the person entered the property.

15 (END)