



2015 SENATE BILL 115

April 8, 2015 – Introduced by Senators PETROWSKI, VINEHOUT, BEWLEY, HANSEN, HARSDORF, LASSA, MARKLEIN, MOULTON and WIRCH, cosponsored by Representatives HESSELBEIN, PETRYK, SKOWRONSKI, BALLWEG, BERCEAU, BERNIER, E. BROOKS, R. BROOKS, CONSIDINE, DANOU, EDMING, HEBL, HORLACHER, JACQUE, JORGENSEN, KITCHENS, KLEEFISCH, KOLSTE, KULP, T. LARSON, MASON, MURPHY, OHNSTAD, QUINN, RIPP, SINICKI, THIESFELDT, TITTL and ZEPNICK. Referred to Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining, and Forestry.

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.164 (3m) (title); and *to create* 29.164 (3m) (am) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** an exemption for disabled veterans and recipients of the
3 purple heart medal from the cumulative preference system for issuing wild
4 turkey hunting licenses and tags.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

Under current law, if the number of applicants for wild turkey hunting tags for a given wild turkey hunting zone or a given wild turkey hunting season time period exceeds the number of available wild turkey hunting tags allocated by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for that zone or time period, DNR must issue wild turkey hunting licenses and tags for that zone or time period according to a cumulative preference system. Under this system, DNR issues a limited number of licenses and tags to applicants according to their placement in any of several preference categories based on landowner status, resident status, and the number of seasons for which the applicant applied for but was not issued a license.

Under current law, DNR may issue wild turkey hunting licenses and tags to certain members of the U.S. armed forces without requiring that the licenses and tags be issued pursuant to the cumulative preference system. Under this bill, DNR must issue wild turkey hunting licenses and tags to disabled veterans and to

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recipients of the purple heart medal without using the cumulative preference system.

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

1 **SECTION 1.** 29.164 (3m) (title) of the statutes is amended to read:

2 29.164 **(3m)** (title) WILD TURKEY HUNTING LICENSES ISSUED TO MEMBERS OF ARMED
3 FORCES, DISABLED VETERANS, AND RECIPIENTS OF THE PURPLE HEART MEDAL.

4 **SECTION 2.** 29.164 (3m) (am) of the statutes is created to read:

5 29.164 **(3m)** (am) Notwithstanding sub. (3), the department shall issue to
6 disabled veterans and to qualified recipients of the purple heart medal wild turkey
7 hunting licenses and tags without requiring that the licenses and tags be issued
8 pursuant to the cumulative preference system under sub. (3). A disabled veteran is
9 a person who produces evidence that shows that he or she is a veteran, as defined in
10 38 USC 101, and is receiving disability compensation benefits under 38 USC 1101
11 to 1163 for disabilities that result in a disability rating that is 50 percent or greater
12 under 38 USC 1114 or 1134, or is receiving disability compensation benefits due to
13 being individually unemployable under 38 CFR 4.16 as authorized under 38 USC
14 501. The department shall recognize an annual disabled veteran recreation card
15 issued under s. 29.236 as sufficient evidence that a person is a disabled veteran. A
16 qualified recipient of the purple heart medal is a person who exhibits proof that he
17 or she has received the medal.

18 **SECTION 3. Initial applicability.**

19 (1) This act first applies to wild turkey hunting licenses issued for the first wild
20 turkey hunting season that begins after the effective date of this subsection.

21

(END)