



TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23RD SENATE DISTRICT

From: Senator Terry Moulton

To: Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry

Re: **Testimony on Senate Bill 359**
Relating to: a trapping mentorship program, restrictions on taking or appropriating a trap or its contents, and requirements for tagging traps.

Date: December 9, 2015

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today about Senate Bill 359. Representative Quinn and I have introduced this bill at the request of the Wisconsin Trapper's Association.

Senate Bill 359 would establish a trapping mentorship program based, generally, on Wisconsin's mentored hunting program. It would allow a person to obtain a trapping license without completion of the trapper education course, so long as they are trapping under the supervision of a qualified, licensed mentor.

Under current law, a trapper who brings a child, grandchild or another adult who does not possess a trapping license with them to check their traps could unknowingly be breaking the law. This bill would simply authorize a trapper to pass on his or her experience and knowledge the same way Wisconsin trappers have for centuries – through shared experience and mentorship.

We worked with the DNR on this bill and the concept gained strong support in the 2014 Wisconsin Conservation Congress Spring Hearing Questionnaire where it passed in 70 counties. The Safari Club and the Wisconsin Bear Hunters Association both support the bill.

Trapping is an important part of Wisconsin's sporting heritage and our state history. I hope this bill will help us pass that heritage on to our kids and grandkids and ask you to please consider the passage of Senate Bill 359. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

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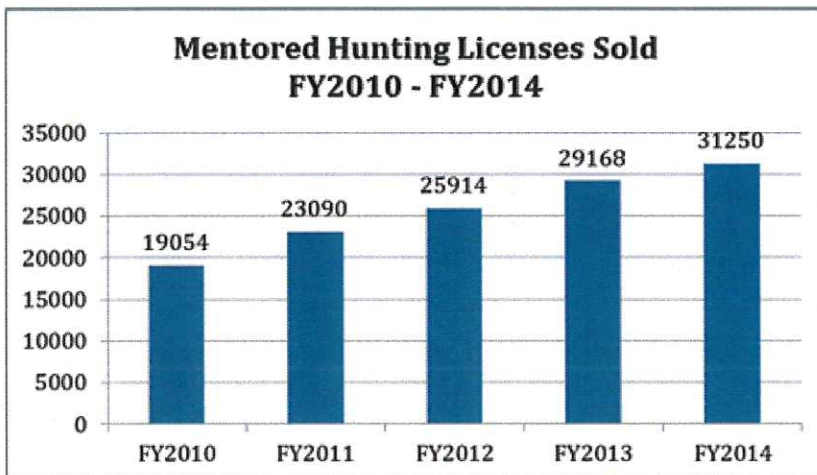
Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry
SB 359 – Mentored trapping
December 9, 2015

Chair Tiffany and committee members:

SB 359 establishes an exception to our trapper education program requirement for people who will be trapping with a mentor – very similar to the mentored hunting program that many of us are familiar with.

Mentored hunting is a one-on-one opportunity giving first-time hunters a chance to try hunting in a safe situation and enables veteran hunters to pass on their knowledge and passion for the outdoors.

Based on participation, mentored hunting has been successful and it seems like you could expect the same from mentored trapping, although at a smaller scale simply because there are fewer trappers overall.



Something that's not related to mentored trapping is a provision that allows a trapper to check another trapper's sets if they have permission of the person who placed the trap. The person checking or operating the trap still needs to have their tag on it, so this is pretty consistent with how the law is being interpreted now – the traps can be “double tagged” and two people can, for instance, share the work of checking traps in the morning.

In a mentored situation, the trap could have a tag of either the mentor or the person being mentored.

How this would likely be implemented is that a person who purchases a trapping license but who has not completed trapper education would simply be issued a license that says “mentored” on.

We would have to do a little bit of license system programming related to the trapper education requirement that is currently built in, but the delayed effective date should take care of that.