



# TERRY MOULTON



WISCONSIN STATE SENATOR

23<sup>RD</sup> SENATE DISTRICT

**From: Senator Terry Moulton**

**To: Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry**

**Re: Testimony on Senate Bill 400**  
**Relating to:** the fee for a first-time annual fishing license for residents who are 16 or 17 years old or who are 65 years old or older.

**Date: February 14, 2018**

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 400, which would provide first time fishing licenses at a lower cost for residents who are 16 or 17 years old, or over the age of 65 years old.

By now the ice is definitely thick enough for ice fishermen to get their gear out and set up their shacks. A warm place to sit while fishing in the cooler months makes it easy to bring family or friends who are new to the sport of fishing. Another thing that helps bring people to the sport is making it easier to obtain licenses with reduced fees.

In 2011, Wisconsin Act 168 established the discount for purchasing a fishing license for the first time, but residents who are age 16, 17, or are over the age of 65 were not included in this discount. Currently, it costs \$7.00 for a first time fishing license for residents who are 16, 17, or over the age of 65. Assembly Bill 491 would simply include these residents and allow them to pay a reduced cost of \$5.00 for a first time annual fishing license.

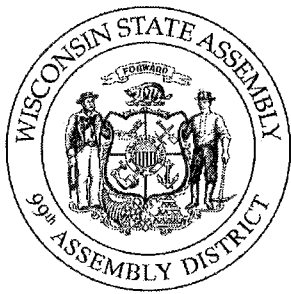
This legislation will even the cost across the board for anyone purchasing a fishing license for the first time. The DNR's website indicates that anyone can receive a discount if they have never fished before or if they have not purchased a license in 10 years. By allowing this change, we can allow everyone to get the \$5 reduced license fee instead of having different first time fees for residents.

This bill is supported by the Safari Club. There is no known opposition to this bill.

Please vote in favor of Senate Bill 400 and make it easier for people to get into fishing in our beautiful state. Thank you again for allowing me to testify today.

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*Serving the 23rd Senate District*



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Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Mining and Forestry  
Public Hearing, SB 400  
February 14, 2018

Thank you Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee for this opportunity to testify on SB 400, relating to the fee for a first-time annual fishing license for residents who are 16 or 17 years old or who are 65 years old or older.

2011 Wisconsin Act 168 created a first-time license discount of \$5 (\$4.25 plus a \$.75 issuance fee) to recruit new hunters and anglers in Wisconsin. However, the bill unintentionally excluded 16 and 17 year olds and individuals 65 and older from the \$5 fishing fee.

Currently, the mentioned age groups are eligible for a reduced license fee of \$7. This \$2 difference, while seemingly insignificant, was brought to our attention by a resident of the 99<sup>th</sup> District. She was unable to secure the \$5 fee for her daughter. For the sake of uniformity and to further incentivize first-time hunters and anglers in Wisconsin, SB 400 would lower the first-time, eligible license fees for 16 and 17 year olds and those 65 and older to \$5.

It is my hope that the Committee support SB 400 to encourage individuals of all ages, old and young, to enjoy the Wisconsin outdoors and take part in the tradition of outdoor sports in Wisconsin.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify.

Representative Cindi Duchow