



HOWARD MARKLEIN

STATE SENATOR • 17TH SENATE DISTRICT

October 19, 2021

Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business and Rural Issues

Testimony on Senate Bills (SB) 610, 613, 615, 616 and 617

Good morning!

Thank you Chair Stafsholt and committee members for hearing the Sporting Freedom package of bills to preserve and enhance Wisconsin's sporting heritage for hunters and sportsmen and sportswomen.

As a lifelong hunter, I am proud to be the lead author of five of these proposals. My bills simplify turkey hunting regulations, seek to reduce the number of different types of hunting licenses offered in WI, share more information about public land access, clear obstacles for dog trainers and encourage partnerships for sport fish stocking in lakes and streams.

Turkey Hunting Simplification Bill (SB 610) – This bill would modify administrative rules relating to the hunting of wild turkeys to combine hunting zones and seasons to just two zones and two seasons (down from the complicated and restrictive six seasons that makes it difficult for many hunters to participate), and to modify youth hunting restrictions.

The spring turkey hunting season starts in mid-April, with the youth hunt on April 17th & 18th this year. On opening day of the regular season, April 21, 2021, there was a snow storm across portions of southern Wisconsin. The application for a turkey permit is due December 10 of the prior year. Unpredictable weather in April and May, can discourage youth hunters who have been looking forward to the hunt.

DNR Hunting License Categories Simplification Bill (SB 613) – This bill would require the DNR to prepare a report that identifies ways to consolidate or eliminate hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses to reduce the total number of types of licenses DNR is required to issue.

Currently there are over 20 categories of hunting and trapping license approvals, five special species stamps, and at least 12 different fishing licenses. Additionally, there are first time licenses for youth, disabled, spousal or mentored hunts. Hunters and anglers want to ethically participate in the sport, but could be left wondering if they have the proper license or tag for the season or the equipment that they are using?

DNR Public Lands Access Report Bill (SB 615) – This bill would require the DNR to prepare a report that identifies public access opportunities on all lands owned or managed by DNR, land

acquired under the Warren Knowles-Gaylord Nelson stewardship program, and open managed forest lands.

Guidance from the legislature has been to increase access to lands funded by public dollars. Over the past decade additional emphasis included providing vehicular access on established roads. An aging hunting population often finds these roads gated and blocked providing inadequate access.

Dog Training Bill (SB 616) – This bill would require the DNR to make available on the Go Wild website dog training licenses. Currently, this license is not available there and that makes it harder for hunters to comply.

During the pandemic, many DNR Service Centers were closed, and counter service was restricted. This required hunters to mail a paper application for dog training licenses, allowing one to two weeks for processing. There is no justification for not making the application and permits available on the Go Wild system with all of the other hunting and fishing licenses.

Aquaculture Partnership Bill (SB 617) – This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to prepare a report that identifies opportunities for partnering with the private aquaculture industry for increased stocking of desirable sport fish in lakes and streams.

Public-private partnerships can take advantage of the aquaculture expertise that exists in Wisconsin. The successful Walleye Initiative can be used as a model to partner with private fish farms to stock popular game fish and increase angling opportunities and enhance native fish populations.

Thank you again to the chairman and committee for holding this hearing. This package of legislation is about simplifying the DNR rules and regulations, so whether you're a seasoned hunter, angler or new to the sport, you can be sure that you purchased the right licenses, permits or tags to be part of the sporting culture in Wisconsin.

The Sporting Freedom package of bills is very timely as hunters return to the fields, set-up their stands and harvest wild game all over Wisconsin. I am proud to be a part of this effort to protect and defend our sporting freedoms and heritage. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this legislation.



CLINT P. MOSES

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To: Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business and Rural Issues

From: State Representative Clint P. Moses

Date: October 19, 2021

Subject: Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 616

Thank you Chairman Stafsholt and committee members for holding this hearing and allowing me to testify on Senate Bill 616, relating to electronic issuance of dog training licenses.

Senate Bill 616 would require the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to offer dog licenses through the DNR's GoWild website. GoWild was created in 2016 by the DNR for outdoorsmen and women to easily obtain hunting and fishing licenses, register for safety courses and manage off-road vehicle licenses.

However, the Bird Dog Training license is not available in the electronic issuance system. The current paper system for dog training is no longer suitable during this technology dependent time. Outdoorsmen and women have shown that they like the convenience of going online to purchase their licenses. In 2020, the Go Wild system processed more than 1.8 million transactions online. This bill would require the DNR to include dog training licenses for purchase through the electronic system known as GoWild.

Thank you for your consideration on Senate Bill 616.



Senate Committee on Sporting Heritage, Small Business, and Rural Issues

2021 Senate Bill 616

Electronic Issuance of Dog Training Licenses

October 19, 2021

Good morning Chair Stafsholt and members of the Committee. My name is Linda Olver, and I am the Bureau of Customer and Outreach Services Policy Advisor for the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources. Thank you for the opportunity to testify, for informational purposes, on Senate Bill 616 (SB 616), related to electronic issuance of dog training licenses.

The department issues relatively few dog training licenses compared to Chapter 29 hunting, trapping, and fishing approvals. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the department consolidated the dog training license application process and required all dog training applications be mailed to the department's central office for processing. The following were issued in 2020 by central office Wildlife staff: 412 bird dog training licenses, 18 dog club licenses, and 2 hound dog licenses (432 total dog training licenses).

SB 616 does not include authority for license agents to collect an issuing fee for the sale of these dog training licenses. License agents would receive some compensation, as they would be authorized to collect the \$0.50 transaction fee authorized per s. [29.566\(1m\)](#). However, license agent compensation would be significantly less than the compensation currently authorized by statute for the issuance of ch. 29 approvals.

Special product fulfillment is required for two of the three dog training licenses (bird dog and dog club training) authorized in s. 169.20. State statute requires those training on captive pheasant, gray partridge, bobwhite quail, and other quail species of the subfamily *Odontophorinae* use leg bands provided by the department, if the birds will be released and killed during the training activity. Bird dog and dog club license applicants may currently request leg bands at the time of application. Department staff mail the requested number of leg bands to approved dog training license applicants. Even with dog training licenses available for purchase in Go Wild, it is anticipated the department staff would continue to maintain an inventory of, and mail requested leg bands to, bird and dog club training license holders.

The authors may wish to consider adding a \$0.75 issuance fee for dog training licenses issued under s. 169.20 to allow license agents to earn a commission similar to what they are authorized to earn per [29.559\(1\)\(a\)](#) for issuing ch. 29 licenses.

On behalf of the Department of Natural Resources, we would like to thank you for your time today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.