



# EDWARD BROOKS

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF 2015 ASSEMBLY BILL 579

Mr. Chairman and members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage, thank you for hearing Assembly Bill 579 today.

This bill makes common sense changes to current law to exempt feathers that are naturally shed by, or come from lawfully taken, wild game birds from the prohibition in dealing in wild animals.

There is a market for wild game bird feathers and if someone lawfully takes such a bird, or collects naturally shed feathers from grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, or wild turkey, they should be able to offer them for sale, for example, to those with an interest in using them.

This bill has been introduced in one form or another since 2011 with no registered opposition. This bill is supported by the Wisconsin Game Preserve Association and the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation.

I appreciate your interest in this legislation, and respectfully request your recommendation for passage of Assembly Bill 579 at your next Executive Session.



# TOM TIFFANY

STATE SENATOR • 12TH SENATE DISTRICT

**Testimony on Assembly Bill 579**  
**Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage**  
**January 6, 2015**

Mr. Chairman and members of the committee,

Thank you for hearing testimony on Assembly Bill 579 this afternoon.

State law currently prohibits the purchase, sale, or trade of various nonedible wild animal parts, including the feathers of a legally harvested game bird. Generally as a result, these outdoorsmen are limited to discarding these feathers during or shortly after the field dressing process, thus preventing further legitimate use of wild game bird feathers.

Keeping with Wisconsin's tradition of sustainable hunting, I have authored this bill on the behalf of various outdoorsmen to allow individuals to sell, purchase or trade the naturally shed feathers and the feathers of lawfully taken wild game birds. These wild game birds include grouse, partridge, pheasant, quail, and turkey.

When developing this legislation the intent was to allow for the use of wild turkey feathers as arrow fletching. Many outdoorsmen and outfitters prefer the natural and more reliable qualities that turkey feathers add to their arrows.

In recognition of the many uses for wild game bird feathers, individuals and businesses would be allowed to make transactions of these wild game bird feathers for use by outdoorsmen, florists, naturalists, crafters, and the like across various hobbies and trades.

This is a fairly simple bill, and I would encourage your support. Thank you again for considering my testimony and I would gladly answer any questions that the committee may have.



# Wisconsin Game Preserve Association

To: Members of the Assembly Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage  
Representative Al Ott, Chairman

From: Gary R. Goyke  
Legislative Director  
Wisconsin Game Preserve Association

Re: Support for AB 579, the Sale, Purchase or Possession of Wild Game Bird Feathers

Date: January 6, 2016

The Wisconsin Game Preserve Association is in support of AB 579, relating to the sale, purchase, or possession of wild game bird feathers.

We wish to thank the authors for their leadership on an issue that has been talked about for some time and in the scheme of things has gotten lost in the myriad of legislation far more important that gets considered.

The use of feathers from game birds has grown tremendously over the years. Decorating homes, cottages, rural craft fairs, specialty local art fairs...all use these items in varying degrees.

Former Senator Dale Schultz would be pleased that this is coming up and – to be balanced – so would former Senator David Zien. They understood that a local farmer may be able to stay on the farm if there are proper avenues for additional economic commerce.

AB 579 makes it clear that naturally shed feathers of what are classed as wild game birds can be used in commercial craft or personal artistic endeavors.

For your convenience, I have attached a copy of s. 29.539, Wis. Stats. which deals with this matter. You will be able to tell where this fits in and can see that this bill will make it possible with the citizens who enjoy the use of these feathers can do so without fear of committing a state violation. The history of chapter 29 of the statutes goes back to 1973, and I am proud to say I have been involved in almost all the adopted amendments to this section since 1975.

(g) Issuance and duration of permits for commercial clam shellers who are exempt under sub. (3) (a) 3. from the license requirement.

(h) Harvest limits, allocating the harvest limits among the commercial clam shellers and criteria for allocation.

(9) **CONFIDENTIALITY.** Upon request in writing by a person who is required by department rule to keep a record or submit a report, the department shall keep confidential any information on the record or report relating to the value or weight of clams bought, sold or bartered by the person or relating to the specific location where the clams were taken, killed, collected or removed, except that the information may be disclosed in statistical summaries or reports which do not identify the person by name or license number and in any enforcement action under s. 29.971 (1m).

**History:** 1985 a. 289, 332; 1987 a. 399; 1989 a. 336; 1993 a. 213; 1997 a. 248 s. 501; Stats. 1997 s. 29.537.

**Cross-reference:** See also ch. NR 24, Wis. adm. code.

All illegal clamming violations are punishable by forfeiture under s. 29.99 (1m) (a) [now 29.971 (11m) (a)] except violations of the possession provisions of this section. State v. Ahrling, 191 Wis. 2d 398, 528 N.W.2d 431 (1995).

**29.539 Sale of wild animals.** (1) (a) Except as otherwise expressly provided under this chapter, no person may sell, purchase, barter, or trade, or offer to sell, purchase, barter, or trade or have in possession or under control for the purpose of sale, barter, or trade any of the following:

1. Any deer, elk, squirrel, game bird, game fish, or the carcass of any such wild animal at any time.

1m. Any bear or any carcass of a bear at any time, including any head of a bear, bear claws, or bear teeth.

2. Any other wild animal or its carcass during the closed season for that wild animal.

(b) This subsection applies whether a wild animal listed under par. (a) was lawfully or unlawfully taken within or without the state.

(1m) Subsection (1) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A lawfully taken wild animal that is not listed in sub. (1) (a) 1. or 1m. for which an open season is established by rule and for which there is no bag or possession limit imposed by rule, or the carcass of such a wild animal.

(b) A fur-bearing animal, or the carcass of a fur-bearing animal, that was lawfully taken and that has a valid registration tag attached by the department.

(c) Liquid scent made from the carcass of a lawfully taken wild animal, other than the gallbladder of a bear.

(d) A farm-raised deer, a farm-raised fish, fish produced in a municipal fish hatchery, a farm-raised game bird, or a wild animal that is subject to regulation under ch. 169 or the carcass of such a wild animal.

(e) The tail or skull of any deer or elk that is lawfully taken, the antlers of any deer or elk that are lawfully taken and that are not in the velvet, and the skin of any deer or elk that is lawfully taken and that is not in the spotted coat.

(f) The hide of any bear that is lawfully taken and that includes the claws, head, and teeth of the bear.

(g) Any claws, head, or teeth that are part of the hide of a bear that is lawfully taken.

(h) A rabbit, or the carcass of a rabbit, that is taken as authorized under s. 29.337 or 29.885.

(i) The tail, claws, skull, or skin of any squirrel that is lawfully taken and that is severed from the rest of the carcass.

(2) Except as provided in subs. (3) and (3m), no fish taken by hook and line from outlying waters, except rough fish, may be sold, bartered or traded in any manner.

(3) The eggs from trout and salmon that are not farm-raised fish and that are lawfully taken and possessed under this chapter are exempted from this section if removed from the fish as provided under sub. (3m).

(3m) The eggs from trout and salmon that are not farm-raised fish may not be sold or purchased unless the eggs are first removed from the whole fish in the presence of the buyer. The fish carcass shall be legally disposed of. Eggs that are removed in accordance with this subsection may subsequently be sold or purchased without the fish subject to any licensing requirement under s. 29.503.

(6) The sale and purchase of a species of fish specified under s. 29.506 (7m) (b) or of the carcass of any of these fish is exempt under this section if the sale and purchase are authorized by a permit issued under s. 29.506 (7m).

**History:** 1973 c. 315, 333; 1975 c. 360; 1977 c. 418; 1985 a. 29, 272; 1987 a. 27, 42, 114; 1991 a. 39, 269; 1995 a. 79; 1997 a. 27; 1997 a. 248 ss. 539 to 545; Stats. 1997 s. 29.539; 2001 a. 56, 109; 2003 a. 247; 2005 a. 288; 2009 a. 38; 2013 a. 20.

**29.541 Serving of game to guests.** (1) **PROHIBITION.** (a) Except as authorized under s. 29.934 (2) or 97.305, no innkeeper, manager or steward of any restaurant, club, hotel, boarding house, tavern, logging camp or mining camp may sell, barter, serve or give, or cause to be sold, bartered, served or given, to its guests or boarders any of the following:

**NOTE:** Par. (a)(intro.) is shown as amended eff. 7-1-16 by 2015 Wis. Act 55. Prior to 7-1-16 it reads:

(a) Except as authorized under s. 29.934 (2) or 254.715, no innkeeper, manager or steward of any restaurant, club, hotel, boarding house, tavern, logging camp or mining camp may sell, barter, serve or give, or cause to be sold, bartered, served or given, to its guests or boarders any of the following:

1. The meat of any deer, elk, bear, squirrel, game bird, or game fish taken from inland waters at any time.

2. The meat of any wild animal not listed in subd. 1., during the closed season for the wild animal, whether the meat is of a wild animal lawfully or unlawfully taken within or without the state.

(b) The department may issue permits authorizing the serving of lawfully taken and possessed wild animals at any time.

(2) **FREE LUNCH.** The giving, offering, or affording opportunity to take free lunch in any of the places named in sub. (1) is embraced within the prohibitions of sub. (1).

(3) **EXEMPTION.** This section does not apply to the meat from farm-raised deer, farm-raised fish, or farm-raised game birds or to meat that is subject to regulation under s. 169.14.

**History:** 1975 c. 360; 1991 a. 269; 1995 a. 79; 1997 a. 27; 1997 a. 248 ss. 546 to 553; Stats. 1997 s. 29.541; 2001 a. 56, 109; 2005 a. 394; 2007 a. 20; 2015 a. 55.

## SUBCHAPTER VII

### APPROVAL FEES AND EFFECTIVE PERIODS

**29.553 Processing fee.** (1) Except as provided in sub. (3), if the department issues any of the following approvals, a nonrefundable processing fee, in addition to any other fee imposed under s. 29.563, shall be collected for each approval:

- (a) Hunter's choice deer hunting permit.
- (am) Bonus deer hunting permit.
- (b) Bobcat hunting and trapping permit.
- (c) Otter trapping permit.
- (d) Fisher trapping permit.
- (e) Canada goose hunting permit.
- (f) Wild turkey hunting license.
- (g) Sharp-tailed grouse hunting permit.
- (h) Class A bear license.
- (hm) Elk hunting license.
- (hr) Wolf harvesting license.
- (i) Sturgeon fishing permit.

(2) If a person applies jointly for a hunter's choice deer hunting permit and a bonus deer hunting permit, the person shall pay a single processing fee. A person who applies for a bonus deer hunting permit is exempt from paying an additional processing fee if the person has already applied for a hunter's choice deer hunting permit for the same season. If the department authorizes the issuing of more than one bonus deer hunting permit to a person in a