



Legislative Fiscal Bureau

One East Main, Suite 301 • Madison, WI 53703 • (608) 266-3847 • Fax: (608) 267-6873

March 16, 2010

TO: Members
Joint Committee on Finance

FROM: Bob Lang, Director

SUBJECT: AB 655: Duplicate Hunting Licenses Issued to Youths Ages 10 and 11

Assembly Bill 655 would establish a reduced fee for a duplicate hunting license issued to a youth hunter who is 10 or 11 years old. The bill was introduced on January 15, 2010, and referred to the Assembly Committee on Fish and Wildlife. On February 17, 2010, the bill was recommended for passage by the Committee on a vote of Ayes 9; Noes 0.

CURRENT LAW

Prior to 2009 Act 39, the minimum hunting age was 12 years old and hunters ages 12 and 13 were required to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. In addition, discounted hunting licenses are available to hunters ages 12 to 17.

2009 Act 39 created a hunting mentorship program under which a youth age 10 or older can hunt without first completing a hunter education course if the youth is licensed and accompanied by a qualified mentor who remains within arm's reach of the youth when hunting. The Act also specified a reduced fee for licenses issued to hunters ages 10 and 11 for most individual hunting licenses (such as small game, gun deer, archery, and wild turkey) of \$7 (including a 75¢ issuing fee and \$2 wildlife damage surcharge).

Under current law, duplicate hunting license fees (including the 75¢ issuing fee) include: gun deer hunting \$15; small game or turkey \$10; archer, sports, or conservation patron \$15 with deer tags, \$12 after the season opens and where deer tags have not been lost.

SUMMARY OF BILL

Assembly Bill 655 would create a duplicate hunting approval, issued to a person who is 10 or

11 years of age of \$4.25 (plus an issuing fee of 75¢) for individual licenses (such as duplicate gun deer, small game, archery, and wild turkey).

The bill would also correct a drafting error that occurred in 2009 Wisconsin Act 39 related to youth hunters ages 14 and 15 who have completed hunter education courses. The bill would clarify that 14 and 15 year olds may either hunt with a parent or guardian "or" if they have successfully completed a hunter education course.

FISCAL EFFECT

The bill would create a uniform \$5 duplicate fee for 10- and 11-year old hunting licenses. Under current law the duplicate fee (\$10 to \$15) typically exceeds the original license fee (\$7). The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) indicates the fiscal effect of the bill would be minimal. Duplicate hunting license fee revenue would be reduced by \$10 for each duplicate deer hunting license issued to a hunter age 10 or 11, and by \$5 for each duplicate small game or turkey license issued. During the 2009-10 hunting season, DNR received 60 requests for duplicate hunting licenses for hunters ages 10 and 11. Under the bill, this would have resulted in a reduction of fish and wildlife SEG of less than \$600.

Prepared by: Erin Rushmer