

# State of Wisconsin



2021 Assembly Bill 163

Date of enactment: **July 8, 2021**  
Date of publication\*: **July 9, 2021**

## 2021 WISCONSIN ACT 62

AN ACT *to amend* 29.885 (1) (a) and 167.31 (2) (d); and *to create* 167.31 (4) (fm) of the statutes; **relating to:** the authority to shoot a beaver or muskrat causing damage to a highway.

*The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** 29.885 (1) (a) of the statutes is amended to read:

29.885 (1) (a) "Damage" means physical harm to forest products; streams; roads; dams; buildings; orchards; apiaries; livestock; and commercial agricultural crops, including Christmas trees and nursery stock. "Damage" includes flooding and culvert blockages caused by a beaver or muskrat.

**SECTION 2.** 167.31 (2) (d) of the statutes is amended to read:

167.31 (2) (d) Except as provided in sub. (4) (a), (bg), (cg), (e), (fm), and (g), no person may discharge a firearm

or shoot a bolt or an arrow from a bow or crossbow from or across a highway or within 50 feet of the center of a roadway.

**SECTION 3.** 167.31 (4) (fm) of the statutes is created to read:

167.31 (4) (fm) Subsection (2) (d) does not prohibit the department of natural resources, acting under s. 29.885, or an agent of a city, village, town, or county authorized by the department of natural resources under s. 29.885 from discharging a firearm within 50 feet of the center of a roadway in order to dispose of a beaver or muskrat that is causing damage to a highway in which the roadway is located if the discharge does not pose a risk to public safety.

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\* Section 991.11, WISCONSIN STATUTES: Effective date of acts. "Every act and every portion of an act enacted by the legislature over the governor's partial veto which does not expressly prescribe the time when it takes effect shall take effect on the day after its date of publication."