
Wisconsin Legislative Council

ACT MEMO



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2023 Wisconsin Act 109 [2023 Senate Bill 34]

Dates for Free Fishing Weekend

Prior law required the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to designate the third full weekend in January as one of two special event weekends in which DNR must waive license requirements and fees that are generally required to fish in Wisconsin. Under prior law, that “free fishing weekend” immediately preceded the Monday Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday in some, but not all, years.

2023 Wisconsin Act 109 modifies the dates for the January free fishing weekend to always align with the Martin Luther King Jr. Day holiday. Specifically, the act requires DNR to designate the full weekend in January prior to the third Monday in January as a free fishing weekend.

Effective date: March 16, 2024

For a full history of the bill, visit the Legislature’s [bill history page](#).

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