



State of Wisconsin
2015 - 2016 LEGISLATURE

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2015 ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION 28

April 22, 2015 – Introduced by Representatives KLEEFISCH, MILROY and A. OTT, cosponsored by Senators MOULTON, MILLER and COWLES. Referred to Committee on Rules.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **Relating to:** commemorating the economic impacts of sportsmen and sportswomen
2 in Wisconsin.

3 Whereas, as a result of over a century of responsible stewardship by sportsmen
4 and women, Wisconsin is home to bountiful fish and wildlife populations, providing
5 its citizens and visitors with unrivaled opportunities for sporting recreation and
6 commerce while also sustaining a quality of life; and

7 Whereas, through the continued purchases of hunting and fishing licenses,
8 resident and nonresident hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers
9 continue to be the chief supporters of Wisconsin's fish and wildlife resources, while
10 also providing critical funds for efforts to provide for healthy and abundant
11 populations for future generations; and

12 Whereas, the legislature recognizes that the nearly \$4.03 billion per year spent
13 by sportsmen and women in Wisconsin on equipment, travel, leases, licenses, and
14 lodging creates a \$6.22 billion economic ripple effect, making them a critical
15 component of the state's economy; and

1 Whereas, spending by sportsmen and women in Wisconsin generates over \$377
2 million in state and local revenues, supporting vital public services in communities
3 across the state; and

4 Whereas, sportsmen and women in Wisconsin contribute to the Wildlife and
5 Sport Fish Restoration Program that began with the passage of the Federal Aid in
6 Wildlife Restoration Act in 1937, and then was bolstered with the passage of the
7 Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1950 (further expanded with the
8 Wallop-Breaux amendment to the Sport Fish Restoration Act in 1984); and

9 Whereas, as provided in the aforementioned Wildlife and Sport Fish
10 Restoration Program, the manufacturers of firearms, ammunition, and hunting,
11 fishing, and boating equipment have collected excise taxes on firearms, ammunition,
12 archery equipment, manufactured fishing tackle, electric trolling motors, marine
13 electronics, and motorboat fuel and distributed these funds to the states through the
14 U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service; and

15 Whereas, the combined contribution of the Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration
16 Program and license fees to state fish and wildlife agencies has exceeded \$16.4 billion
17 since 1939 (the first year money was distributed to the states) — more than any other
18 single conservation effort in American history; and

19 Whereas, Wisconsin has received \$526 million through the Wildlife and Sport
20 Fish Restoration Program since 1939 to protect and enhance fish and wildlife
21 populations; and

22 Whereas, this cooperative partnership between industry, hunters, anglers,
23 trappers, boaters, recreational shooters, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the
24 Department of Natural Resources has resulted in the most successful model of fish
25 and wildlife management in the world; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the assembly, the senate concurring, That the Wisconsin legislature recognizes sportsmen and sportswomen in Wisconsin and the Department of Natural Resources for their leading role in enhancing populations of fish, wildlife, both game and non-game, and other natural resources, to the abundance we see today; and, be it further

Resolved, That an official copy of this resolution be provided to the Department of Natural Resources, all Wisconsin legislative offices, and local, regional, and national media sources so that all may know and appreciate the contributions from hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on behalf of our state's natural resources.

(END)