

Representative Bill Tveit  
House District 33

Testimony for HB Introduction to HB 1237, House Energy & Natural Resources Committee. January 24, 2025

Mr Chairman, Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the Record, I am Representative Bill Tveit of Hazen, representing the fine residents of District 33 which is all of Mercer, all of Oliver and the BEST parts of McLean and Morton Counties as well as the Heart of Coal Country where we keep Your Lights On!

HB 1237 is before you at the request of prior residents, many absentee landowners and extended family members of our residents.

I would like to begin by:

1. going through the bill intent,
2. remove an unintentional error by offering an amendment and finally,
3. debunk the fiscal note as written.

1. The intent of HB 1237 is to provide an optional non-resident upland and small game hunting full season license. This option was requested as a convenience for repeat non-resident hunters, family members and non-resident landowners who return often and do not want to take the time to reapply continually throughout the season.

So, lets look at section 1, lines 8 thru 13.

On line 9, a non-resident may purchase.

Line 11 specifies the entire season,.

The balance of Line 11, lines 12 & 13 leave total discretion to the governor, the Department and the Proclamation for the number of licenses issued, and the manner in which this full season option is issued, (which should include fee structure).

2. On lines 20 thru 22, never was it intended to remove the current 14 day non-resident hunt, but to leave that available as an option for those non-resident hunters it best fit. I would request the over strike on lines 20, 21, and 22 be removed.

The Amendment: I would ask you to consider is as follows:

- a. page 1, line 9, following the may purchase add the words an optional
  - b. page 1, line 20, after license., leave the overstrike on The and add An optional
  - c. page 1, lines 20, 21, & 22, remove the balance of the overstrike.
3. Debunking the fiscal note:

The Fiscal Note, following the amendment, should reflect a positive income for NDGF. Certainly not a loss, based on the following: (remember, I left fee schedules totally up to the Department)

1. A 14 day season is currently priced at \$100.00 with no limit on the number of consecutive 14 license a non-resident can purchase.

Using that logic, one could purchase up to 8 currently offered 14 day licenses for a full season hunt. A total \$800.00 under the current NDCC availability. I would propose a reasonable full season fee based on the above might be not less than \$300.00 but maybe even as high as \$500.00 to \$600.00 for those non-residents wanting that option, and still be a bargain for the avid hunter.

2. Not every non-resident is able or willing to hunt more than 14 days or 2 - 7day split seasons. Thus with the amendment, this option would be still available and no doubt the most widely chosen non-resident option, resulting in minor loss of current revenue.

Chairman Porter, Committee, I would ask that you make the above amendments as requested and give HB 1237 your full support for a Do Pass.

I will stand for questions.