

**FISCAL NOTE**  
**Requested by Legislative Council**  
**01/16/2017**

Bill/Resolution No.: SB 2228

- 1 A. **State fiscal effect:** *Identify the state fiscal effect and the fiscal effect on agency appropriations compared to funding levels and appropriations anticipated under current law.*

	2015-2017 Biennium		2017-2019 Biennium		2019-2021 Biennium	
	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds	General Fund	Other Funds
<b>Revenues</b>				\$(480)		\$(480)
<b>Expenditures</b>				\$0		\$0
<b>Appropriations</b>				\$0		\$0

- 1 B. **County, city, school district and township fiscal effect:** *Identify the fiscal effect on the appropriate political subdivision.*

	2015-2017 Biennium	2017-2019 Biennium	2019-2021 Biennium
<b>Counties</b>			
<b>Cities</b>			
<b>School Districts</b>			
<b>Townships</b>			

- 2 A. **Bill and fiscal impact summary:** *Provide a brief summary of the measure, including description of the provisions having fiscal impact (limited to 300 characters).*

The bill creates 2 new sections of the NDCC relating to director issued licenses and permits issued at no cost for resident veterans from nonprofit organizations for hunting expeditions for: 1) deer; 2) wild turkey.

- B. **Fiscal impact sections:** *Identify and provide a brief description of the sections of the measure which have fiscal impact. Include any assumptions and comments relevant to the analysis.*

Both sections have a negative impact on revenue.

3. **State fiscal effect detail:** *For information shown under state fiscal effect in 1A, please:*

- A. **Revenues:** *Explain the revenue amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each revenue type and fund affected and any amounts included in the executive budget.*

A decrease in revenue for 6 deer licenses of \$180/year (6 x \$30). A decrease in revenue for 4 turkey licenses \$60/year (4 x \$15) = a total decrease of \$480/biennium.

- B. **Expenditures:** *Explain the expenditure amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency, line item, and fund affected and the number of FTE positions affected.*

None

- C. **Appropriations:** *Explain the appropriation amounts. Provide detail, when appropriate, for each agency and fund affected. Explain the relationship between the amounts shown for expenditures and appropriations. Indicate whether the appropriation or a part of the appropriation is included in the executive budget or relates to a continuing appropriation.*

None

**Name:** Kim Kary

**Agency:** ND Game and Fish Dept

**Telephone:** 328-6605

**Date Prepared:** 01/20/2017

2017 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2228

# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2228  
2/2/2017  
Job # 27782

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature

*Pam Dever*

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution: Relating to deer and wild turkey hunting licenses for veterans receiving hunting expeditions from a nonprofit organization.**

### Minutes:

Attch#1=Mike Putnam, Attch#2=Michael McEnroe,  
Attch#3=Scott Peterson, Attch#4=Curt Decker(email)

Roll taken and All committee members present.  
Chairwoman Unruh: We begin the hearing on SB 2228.

**Senator Wardner**, Dist. 37, Dickinson, ND: I ran into Mike Putnam and he was working with veterans. Hence, this bill is forward. I hope to do something for this group.

**Mike Putnam**, Vice Pres. of Veterans Outdoor Adventures ND: (01.36-3.40) (see Attch#1) I live in Bismarck. With deer and turkey tags would expand our adventures with veterans. People really enjoy themselves and open up which is a good thing. I was in Iraq in 2006-05 dealing with IED's. I know what that is like. If we can give back to get these guys feeling that we appreciate them, that is a good thing. We are not forgetting about you. Please pass this.

**Chairwoman Unruh**: Any more in support? Any opposed to SB 2228?

**Michael McEnroe**, ND Wildlife Federation: (4.15-6.01) (see Attch#2) It's hard to come up and oppose a bill for veterans. We are mildly opposed to this bill. We do support the concept. I will take questions.

**Sen. Cook**: Could I get a copy of 1025?

**Chairwoman Unruh**: I just brought it up on my iPad. We will get all a copy. Any agency testimony?

**Scott Peterson**, ND Game and Fish, Deputy Director: (7.00-8.36) (see Attch#3) The department supports our military and the sacrifices they make for our country. There is already a provision that allows what this bill proposes. Any questions?

**Sen. Schaible:** Can you explain how you make the determination of who gets these exemptions, that we have seen so many requests for, of the last few years? What is your rationale for which groups get them?

**Scott:** At this point, all of the licenses that we provide to various organizations is spelled out in statute. This committee directed legislative management to draft a bill that would work out that would address this process long term and that what HB 1025 is supposed to do. HB 1025 does not have a provision in place for spring turkey licenses. That could be amended in on Senate side, and is OK with us.

**Sen. Schaible:** So if HB 1025 passes, you are allowed up to 10 more deer licenses. Who determines who gets them?

**Scott:** We will have to draft some administrative rules. Our intent, at this point, to design a simple lottery.

**Sen. Armstrong:** How are the Military Wildlife Project and Camp Grafton project effected in HB 1025?

**Scott:** All of the licenses that are currently allocated for special purposes or organizations, in statute now, would be grandfathered in. Those would stay in there.

**Vice Chair Kreun:** Are we using all those licenses up that are available for the different organizations?

**Scott:** A good question. No, they are not. There were some tags not used.

**Sen. Armstrong:** Those tags just don't get used?

**Scott:** Correct. You could fix in HB 1025 if you so wish.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Any more questions. We will close the hearing on SB 2228.

# 2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Fort Lincoln Room, State Capitol

SB 2228  
2/2/2017  
Job #27791

- Subcommittee  
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk Signature *Pam Dever*

**Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution: Relating to deer and wild turkey hunting licenses for veterans receiving hunting expeditions from a nonprofit organization**

**Minutes:**

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Let's take up SB 2228 from this morning. Any discussion on this bill?

**Sen. Armstrong:** I move a DO NOT PASS.

**Sen. Schaible:** I second.

**Chairwoman Unruh:** Any committee discussion?

**Sen. Armstrong:** I think we can address these issues in HB 1025. (0.44)

**Chairwoman Unruh:** I agree.

Take the roll: YES 7 NO 0 -0- Absent

**The DO NOT PASS on SB 2228, passed. Vice Chair Kreun will carry the bill.**



Date: 2-2-17  
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2017 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE  
 ROLL CALL VOTES  
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. SB 2228**

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: \_\_\_\_\_

Recommendation:  Adopt Amendment  
 Do Pass  Do Not Pass  Without Committee Recommendation  
 As Amended  Rerefer to Appropriations  
 Place on Consent Calendar  
 Other Actions:  Reconsider  \_\_\_\_\_

Motion Made By Sen Armstrong Seconded By Sen Schaible

Senators	Yes	No	Senators	Yes	No
Chair Jessica Unruh	X		Sen Erin Oban	X	
Vice Chair Curt Kreun	X				
Sen Kelly M. Armstrong	X				
Sen Dwight Cook	X				
Sen Jim Roers	X				
Sen Donald Schaible	X				

Total (Yes) 7 No 0

Absent -0-

Floor Assignment Sen Kreun

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:  
The Do Not Pass = Passed

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2228: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Unruh, Chairman)**  
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).  
SB 2228 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



2017 TESTIMONY

SB 2228



SB

2028

2-2-17

AH #1

ps1

Vice pres  
Mike Putnam

Veterans Outdoors Adventures North Dakota is a 501c3 organization that was founded in 2016 by three Veterans and their spouses. Elizabeth Vanlishout is a Marine Veteran. She lives in Mott, ND with her husband, Josh. Mike Putnam is retired from the North Dakota National Guard. Mike and his wife, Beth, live in Lincoln, ND. Allen Hecker is currently in the North Dakota National Guard. Allen lives in Dickinson, ND with his wife Amanda.

We are dedicated to North Dakota Veterans, First Responders, and their families. We are able to provide outdoor adventures for these individuals to as means to cope with their after active service issues. By getting the Veterans involved in outdoor adventures they are able to find an outlet from their issues and bond with others, helping to decrease the suicide rate.

All of our adventures are funded by donations. We are able to provide meals, lodging, and any equipment needed for the adventures. Our goal is provide the Veteran/First Responder with a fully funded outdoor adventure that they can use as a means to heal.

Veterans Outdoors Adventures ND would be honored to have access to deer and turkey tags for the Start of North Dakota. We will be able to add additional adventures to our activities right here in North Dakota.

We also support our local communities through activities such as Christmas Angel Tree Projects and Fallen Solider/First Responder support.

Thank you for your consideration,

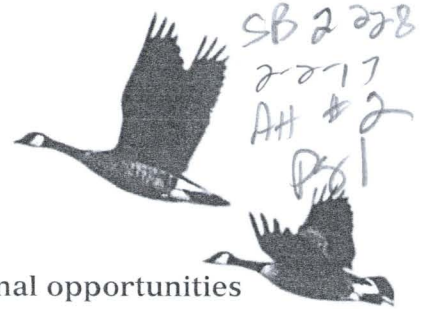
Mike Putnam  
Vice President  
Veterans Outdoors Adventures ND

Bis-

original

# North Dakota Wildlife Federation

Ensuring abundant wildlife, wildlife habitat, and access to wildlife recreational opportunities



*original*

**TESTIMONY OF MICHAEL McENROE  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SENATE BILL 2228  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
FEBRUARY 2, 2017**

Chairman Unruh and Members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

For the record, I am Mike McEnroe and I am representing the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. The Federation has 1,400 members in eighteen affiliated clubs and organizations across the State.

The Federation is opposed to SB 2228. Last session there were several bills introduced that provided various big game lottery licenses to charitable organizations. As a result, an Interim Legislative Committee developed HB 1025 consolidating all the lottery licenses provided to charitable groups in one bill and one subsection of ND Century Code. In addition to the existing provisions for annual special allocation hunting licenses, the Director is authorized to issue up to two elk licenses, two moose licenses, two antelope licenses, and ten white-tailed deer licenses to yet unidentified eligible organizations for raffle or auction. HB 1025 meets the intent of SB 2228. HB 1025 has passed the House by a vote of 89-2, and will come to the Senate for consideration.



SB 2228  
2-2-17  
Attach # 2  
Pg 2

We suggest that DB 2228 is duplicative of HB 1025 and that the issue in SB 2228 has been addressed, and therefore respectfully request that SB 2228 be given a Do Not Pass vote.

I would stand for any questions the Committee may have.





SB 2228  
2/2/17  
att # 3,  
pg 1

Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Testimony on SB 2228

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Scott Peterson, Deputy Director  
February 2, 2017

Madam Chair Unruh and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Scott Peterson and I'm the Deputy Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I am testifying today on SB 2228.

The Department supports our military and the sacrifices they make for our country. Further, we support the concept of allowing them certain privileges that are not afforded other sectors of the public. We believe that they are very worthy of such privileges.

However, I would like to make the Committee aware of the fact that there is already a provision in our big game proclamation which annually allows for ten deer licenses to be provided to disabled veterans through the Injured Military Wildlife Project. In addition to those ten deer licenses, our big game proclamation annually provides for a limited number of either sex permits to disabled veterans to be used at Camp Grafton. The actual number of licenses to be provided to disabled veterans at Camp Grafton is determined by ND National Guard personnel and in recent years, that number has been ten. The total number of deer licenses already being provided to veterans is twenty.

The Department has also assisted Legislative Management in the drafting of HB 1025 which, if passed into law, would provide up to two additional elk licenses, two additional moose licenses, two additional pronghorn licenses and up to ten additional white-tailed deer licenses to be made available to qualifying organizations. It is quite conceivable that some of those additional big game licenses could be made available to an organization which advocates for military veterans. The Department is also cognizant of the fact that there may be a point where providing additional big game licenses may not be viewed favorably by our other constituents.

original

Oban, Erin

Curt Decker

SB 2228  
2/2/17  
att #4

*E-mail original*

**From:** Curt Decker <cpdecker@ndsupernet.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 2, 2017 7:00 AM  
**To:** Unruh, Jessica K.; Kreun, Curt E.; Armstrong, Kelly; Cook, Dwight C.; Roers, Jim; Schaible, Donald G.; Oban, Erin  
**Subject:** SB 2228

pg 1

**CAUTION:** This email originated from an outside source. Do not click links or open attachments unless you know they are safe.

Chairman Unruh, Members of the Senate Natural Resources Committee,

This correspondence is regarding SB 2228 which you will be reviewing today at 9:00 A.M.

SB 2228: *Would require the ND Game & Fish Dept. to issue six deer licenses and four spring wild turkey licenses to veterans residing in North Dakota who are selected by a nonprofit organization that provide outdoor recreation activities to veterans to help improve their health and well-being, and reduce the rate of suicide among veterans. The organization must provide each veteran a hunting expedition designed to achieve the purpose of the organization during which the veteran may use the veteran's license.*

I've been a lifelong citizen of North Dakota and one of my passions is hunting. As an avid sportsman, I closely monitor the status of legislation introduced each legislative session pertaining to game and fish matters. I have spoken at many legislative committee hearings over the years both for and/or against various bills, depending on how they could potentially affect our game and fish resources, the laws pertaining to fair chase, and fair access to those resources by all sportsmen of our state. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend the scheduled hearing today to speak, and respectfully ask for your consideration of my thoughts concerning SB 2228.

Regarding SB 2228, I am concerned with the wording and lack of information within the bill:

- The bill is not specific as to which nonprofit organization(s) would receive the licenses.
- What conditions must be met for an organization to qualify for the licenses?
- What selection criteria is the organization utilizing to determine which veteran is eligible to receive a hunt?
- How long will these licenses be allocated to an organization?
- And so on.

Additionally, I find the wording the authors used in the bill, "*to help improve their health and well-being, and reduce the rate of suicide among veterans*", disconcerting. The use of this type of wording by the authors to gain a sympathetic consideration for their bill is uncalled for. Some of the very veterans this bill is intended to help seems to be labeling them unstable. They deserve better. It could have been worded differently.

There have been numerous bills introduced over the years by various groups that did acquire or tried to acquire various game licenses for various reasons, some of which are very noble. The following is a list of hunting licenses that have been allocated to numerous groups or organizations over the years:

1. Four any deer licenses and six any white-tailed deer licenses per year, to The Injured Military Wildlife Project of North Dakota.
2. One turkey license per year to The National Wild Turkey Federation to hunt spring turkeys.



SB 2228  
2-2-17  
Attach #4  
Pg. 2

3. Up to two turkey licenses per year to The Outdoor Adventure Foundation to hunt spring turkey.
4. One bighorn sheep license per year to The Midwest Chapter of the Wild Sheep Foundation.
5. One moose license per year to The North American Wildlife Enforcement Memorial Museum and Educational Center and The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
6. One elk license per year to The North American Wildlife Enforcement Memorial Museum and Educational Center and The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation.
7. One mule deer license per year to The Mule Deer Foundation.
8. One antelope license per year to The North Dakota Hunter Educator's Association.
9. One any elk license, one any moose license, up to seven white tailed deer licenses, and up to two antelope licenses to The Outdoor Adventure Foundation.

Total: Deer – 18, Antelope – 3, Elk – 2, Moose – 2, Bighorn Sheep – 1, Turkey – 3

North Dakota is blessed to have a variety of game species within the state. However, some of those species populations will fluctuate drastically from year to year which can in turn affect the availability of licenses to hunt that game. In the last decade deer numbers have dropped to a point that available licenses went from well over 100,000 to under 50,000. Every time licenses are legislated out of the G&F system it has an influence on sportsmen across the state.

A great number of individuals who are in favor of the intent of bills such as SB 2228, and who are unfamiliar with the efforts and time invested by sportsman waiting to draw one of these coveted licenses, will say, "Well it's only one or two tags; it's not that big of a deal and it's going to a good cause". It is a big deal. Legislating hunting licenses for "white hat projects" is starting to get out of hand, and it is adding up as indicated within the aforementioned list.

Consider this. There were approximately 43,000 deer gun licenses available in 2016 in ND. Of that number, just over 13,000 went to land owners, which are free of charge to the land owner. That left 30,000 licenses for the general public. As you can see a few tags here and there due make a difference to the average hunter.

The ND Game and Fish Department is financed through license fees and taxes on hunting and fishing equipment paid by the sportsmen of this state. No general fund money is used to finance the ND Game and Fish Department. The fees and taxes sportsmen have paid over the years have helped to build the wonderful game and fish resource this state has.

Members of the committee, please take my ranting with a grain of salt. I have the utmost respect for all veterans. However, where do we draw the line on who we extend these benefits to? What about our law enforcement men and women, fire fighters, EMT's, etc. who have and are still serving us, who are or have gone through life changing events due to their service to the greater good of our society, and who also need help improving their health and wellbeing.

There is an opportunity to gain some control over how licenses are allocated to special interest groups in the future. There is a bill within the House, HB 1025, that addresses allocation of hunting licenses based on the sustainability of the species population and vetting of the groups applying for licenses by the Game and Fish Director.

Chairman Unruh, and members of the committee, I urge you to please review the content of House Bill 1025 and please consider recommending a "Do No Pass" on SB 2228. I believe that if passed, HB 1025 will address and allow for much more sensible procedure for processing requests for future hunting license allocations.

pg 3

Sincerely,

*Curt Decker*

Dickinson, ND

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