

2021 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1327

2021 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1327
1/21/2021

Relating to licenses to hunt deer

9:57 AM

Chairman Porter opened the hearing on HB 1327.

Present: Representatives Porter, Damschen, Anderson, Bosch, Devlin, Heinert, Keiser, Lefor, Marschall, Roers Jones, M Ruby, Zubke, Guggisberg, and Ista.

Discussion Topics:

- Former Residents
- Preference points

Terry Steinwand, ND Game and Fish, director #2015

John Bradley, ND Wildlife Federation #2089

Hearing closed at 10:08 AM

Hearing reopened at 10:32 AM

Rep Keiser moved a Do Not Pass, seconded by Rep Anderson.

Roll call vote

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Chuck Damschen	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Bill Devlin	Y
Representative Ron Guggisberg	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative George Keiser	Y
Representative Mike Lefor	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y
Representative Denton Zubke	Y

Motion carried. 14-0-0 Carrier is Rep. Keiser.

Hearing closed at 10:34 AM

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1327: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1327 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1327

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Terry Steinwand, Director
January 21, 2021

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Terry Steinwand and I'm Director of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I'm here today to testify in opposition to HB 1327.

As anyone that hunts deer knows, deer gun season is a popular activity in North Dakota and is as much a social issue for hunters and families as anything. Many former residents like to come back to hunt with family members but many times aren't drawn for a license. This bill states that any current non-resident who has formerly resided in the state for at least ten years, which do not need to be consecutive years, must have one percent of the current deer licenses made available to them. There are two issues with this. First, the bill states that an applicant's status as a former resident must be confirmed with a procedure developed by the director. This requirement has been discussed internally and we can't find any mechanism that would verify whether or not any individual has lived in North Dakota for a period of 10 years of their life. Additionally, if a mechanism were found it would likely take a tremendous amount of personnel time to verify these records but it's unknown as to how many would apply given this new provision. The department has worked diligently to reduce the amount of time from the deadline of the deer gun application to the time of the lottery drawing. In past years this could take up to 7 or 8 weeks to accomplish due to the time it takes to verify gratis applications. We've reduced that time to approximately two weeks by readily accessing electronic county land information and are working to reduce it even further. If this bill were passed and we could find a way to verify a former resident's status it would once again increase the time from application deadline to lottery draw.

A secondary issue is availability of deer licenses for residents of North Dakota. Current law mandates that we set aside one percent of allocated licenses for non-residents. This bill would set aside an additional one percent. In 2020, over 30,600 resident applicants were unsuccessful in the first and second lotteries. The number of unsuccessful resident applicants has been as high as 40,000 in past years. Allocating even more licenses to nonresidents would increase the number of unsuccessful resident applicants proportionally and would undoubtedly be an unwelcome change to those individual residents.

For these reasons I request a DO NOT Pass on HB 1327.



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

Testimony of John Bradley North Dakota Wildlife Federation House Bill 1327 House Energy & Natural Resources Committee January 21, 2021

Chairman Porter, members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee,

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). I am here today representing our 1,500 members and 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's club across North Dakota.

NDWF opposes HB 1327. Outside of the logistical nightmare that this bill would create for Game & Fish, our major issue with the bill is the availability of deer licenses for residents of North Dakota. Current law mandates that Game & Fish set aside one percent of allocated licenses for non-residents. This bill would set aside an additional one percent. In 2020, over 30,000 residents were unsuccessful in the first and second deer lotteries. Allocating even more licenses to nonresidents would increase the number of unsuccessful resident applicants proportionally and would be an unwelcome change to those residents.

I can tell you that there are a lot of North Dakota deer hunters who think the current 1% of allocated licenses for non-residents is too high. We held our legislative summit in December and a common theme from our members and partners were looking at more ways to limit non-resident pressure on our resources. This bill would expand non-resident pressure. NDWF urges a Do Not Pass.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions that the committee might have.