2023 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1224

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1224
1/19/2023

Relating to the possession of handguns and use of dogs in the recovery of big game animals

2:18 PM

Chairman Porter opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

Discussion Topics:

- Small caliber gun
- Waiver on dog

Representative Jon Nelson, Bill Sponsor, oral testimony
Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief ND Dept. of Game and Fish, Testimony #14252
Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden, ND G&F, answered questions

Hearing closed at 2:31 PM

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk
By Bev Monroe

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1224
2/10/2023

A bill relating to the possession of handguns and use of dogs in the recovery of big game animals.

Chairman Porter opened the meeting at 10:20AM.

Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, Ruby, Conmy, and Ista.

Discussion Topics:

- Proposed amendment
- Committee vote

Chairman Porter discussed a proposed amendment from Representative Nelson (#20582).

Representative Heinert moved the amendment (#20582).

Representative Ruby seconded the motion.

Voice vote-motion carried

Representative Heinert moved a Do Pass as Amended.

Representative Ista seconded the motion.

Roll call vote:

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

Motion carried 14-0-0

Representative Ruby is the bill carrier.

Chairman Porter adjourned at 10:22AM.

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk
Minutes by Mary Brucker, Committee Clerk

Adopted by the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
February 10, 2023

AEG 2-10-23 (1-1)

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1224

Page 8, line 17, after "equipment" insert "while using a dog"

Page 8, line 21, after the underscored period insert "A dog handler carrying a handgun must have permission from the landowner or individual authorized by the landowner before entering private land for the recovery of a big game animal."

Renumber accordingly

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1224: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS AS FOLLOWS** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (14 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1224 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar.

Page 8, line 17, after "equipment" insert "while using a dog"

Page 8, line 21, after the underscored period insert "A dog handler carrying a handgun must have permission from the landowner or individual authorized by the landowner before entering private land for the recovery of a big game animal."

Renumber accordingly

2023 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1224

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1224
3/2/2023

A bill relating to the possession of handguns and use of dogs in the recovery of big game animals.

1:15 PM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Beard, and Boehm are present. Senator Magrum is absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Landowner permission
- Hunter protection

1:16 PM Representative John Nelson introduced the bill.

1:18 PM Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief, North Dakota Game and Fish Department verbally testified neutral on the bill.

1:19 PM Chairman Patten closed the public hearing.

1:20 PM Senator Boehm moved to Do Pass the bill.
Motion seconded by Senator Kessel.

1:20 PM Roll call vote is taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	AB
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 5-0-1

Senator Boehm will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect workforce development.

1:20 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1224, as engrossed: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **DO PASS** (5 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). Engrossed HB 1224 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1224

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1224

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson Wildlife Division Chief
January 19, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in opposition of HB 1224.

As written, this bill would exclude anyone recovering a big game animal from carrying archery equipment or a firearm unless they would be the handler of a dog that is being used to recover that animal. This bill also would create legal confusion for hunters, dog handlers, landowners, and the Department as it would conflict with N.D.C.C. 20.1-01-19, when posted land may be entered, and 20.1-01-20, entering posted land with gun or firearm prima facie evidence of intent to hunt game. The Department worked with the blood tracking dog group extensively to allow the use of dogs for big game recovery, and it was a fairly clear consensus among all working on this language at the time that a gun would not be carried. The Department has not heard anything from the group about wanting the ability of carrying a firearm during this activity. Therefore, the Department is asking the committee to send a recommendation of do not pass for HB 1224 as written.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO HOUSE BILL NO. 1224

Page 8, line 17 after the word equipment insert "while using a dog"

Page 8, line 21, after the underscored period insert "A dog handler carrying a handgun must have permission from the landowner or individual authorized by the landowner before entering private land for the recovery of a big game animal."

Renumber accordingly