

**2021 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

**SB 2118**

# 2021 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

## Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2118  
1/21/2021 AM

A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 20.1-01-28, subsection 2 of section 20.1-01-29, and section 20.1-01-30 of the North Dakota Century Code, relating to fines for game and fish violations.

Chairman Kreun called the hearing to order at 8:30am.  
Senators Patten, Piepkorn, Roers, Bell, Schaible and Kreun were all present.

### Discussion Topics:

- Change of fines to new values for game and fish violations
- Fine amounts relative to inflation and when action was last taken on SB 2118

**Scott Winkelman**, ND Game and Fish Chief Game Warden, testified in favor #1501 (8:31am).

**John Bradley**, ND Wildlife Federation Executive Director, testified in favor #2086 (8:39am)

**Senator Roers** moved to DO PASS on SB 2118 (8:39)  
Senator Patten seconded the motion (8:40am)

Roll Call Vote: DO PASS ON SB 2118 Senators	Vote
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Jim Roers	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	N
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jessica Bell	N
Senator Don Schaible	N

Motion failed 3-3-0

**Senator Piepkorn** moved to DO NOT PASS on SB 2118 (8:42am)  
**Senator Schaible** seconded the motion (8:42am)

Roll Call Vote: DO NOT PASS ON SB 2118 Senators	Vote
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Jim Roers	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	N
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jessica Bell	N
Senator Don Schaible	N

Motion failed 3-3-0

**Senator Schaible** moved to bring the bill to the floor without recommendation (8:43)  
**Senator Piepkorn** seconded the motion (8:43)

Motion carried 6-0-0

**Senator Kreun** will carry

<b>Roll Call Vote: Bring to Floor Without a recommendation</b>	<b>Vote</b>
Senator Curt Kreun	Y
Senator Jim Roers	Y
Senator Merrill Piepkorn	Y
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jessica Bell	Y
Senator Don Schaible	Y

**Chairman Kreun** closed the hearing at 8:44am

*Dave Owen, Committee Clerk*

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE**

**SB 2118: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Kreun, Chairman)**  
recommends **BE PLACED ON THE CALENDAR WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION**  
(6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). SB 2118 was placed on the  
Eleventh order on the calendar.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee  
Testimony on SB 2118

North Dakota Game and Fish Department  
Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden  
January 21, 2021

Chairman Kreun, Vice Chairman Roers and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Scott Winkelman, Chief Game Warden of the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. I am testifying today in support of SB 2118.

SB 2118 amends and reenacts two sections of law relating to fines for game and fish violations. Current law states that certain game and fish violations that are designated as a noncriminal offense may pay a fee of fifty dollars for any class 1 noncriminal offense and a fee of twenty-five dollars for any class 2 noncriminal offense. These fees have been in existence since 1985 and do not reflect the inflation level to today's economic value. In several instances the current fees for noncriminal violations are less than the associated license, registration, or wildlife value. The current fees of twenty-five and fifty dollars are also inconsistent with other noncriminal statutory fees for other state cabinet agencies. All the fees that are collected under these laws are paid into the treasury of the proper county to be added to the state school fund and are not paid to or collected by the Game and Fish Department.

If passed this would change the word fee to fine and increase the amount of statutory fines for game and fish noncriminal violations to one hundred dollars for a class 1 noncriminal violation and fifty dollars for a class 2 noncriminal violation. These changes would also make game and fish noncriminal fine amounts consistent with the noncriminal fine amounts for other state agency laws.

The Department respectfully requests a DO PASS on SB 2118.



**NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION**

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY  
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION  
SENATE BILL 2118  
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
JANUARY 21, 2021**

Chairman Kreun, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

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

NDWF rises in support of the Game & Fish Department and in support of SB 2118. SB 2118 increases the fine for non-criminal offenses under the 20.1 code relating to Game and Fish. The Department has not had increase in fines for certain game and fish violations since 1985. It's past time there is a rise in the fines for to better align them with other state agency fines and to serve as a better deterrent.

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