

2025 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2199

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2199

1/23/2025

Relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

9:38 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Lottery delays
- Veteran hunting options
- Deer resources

9:39 a.m. Senator Mike Wobbema testified in favor and submitted testimony #30964.

9:44 a.m. John Bradley, ND Wildlife Federation, testified in opposition and submitted testimony #30938.

9:48 a.m. Scott Peterson, Deputy Director of Game and Fish, testified as neutral.

9:51 a.m. Vice Chairman Kessel closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2199
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
JANUARY 23, 2025

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

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). We are opposed to SB 2199. NDWF believes our service members and veterans deserve the utmost respect, we are put in a hard position to testify against this bill. We struggle with opening up the deer lottery to recognize service. With potentially thousands of North Dakota veterans who would be eligible for this tag, we feel that the pressure that this would put on the resource would be significant. Additionally, there are no restrictions on what type of deer license they could select, meaning units where it could take anywhere from 5-15 years for the general lottery hunter to draw a tag, could be given out year after year to a disabled veteran.

Currently there are options for disabled veterans to participate in hunts, including the Camp Grafton Annual Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park cow elk cull.

We believe there are other ways outside of weakening the deer lottery to recognize the sacrifice that veterans have made. We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2199.

69th Legislative Session
Energy and Natural Resources Committee
23 January 2025

Good morning, Chairman Patten, members of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Senator Mike Wobbema, District 24. In the interest of transparency, I am a veteran with a 90 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration. Senate Bill 2099 is intended to provide a special privilege to those military veterans who have paid a significant physical toll in the service to our great country. It provides for the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish to provide to veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled by the Veterans Administration a deer license upon request, without regard to the lottery system. This Bill came about as a result of a conversation with a constituent during this last campaign season. His comments to me were based upon a frustration of waiting several years to obtain a deer license, mentioning his service and disability. I thought he had a point and hence this legislation request. Incidentally, he had been shot in the leg, stabbed in the shoulder, and had an eye knocked out of its socket during combat operations, though you wouldn't know it to look at him. His love for hunting though, was very clearly evident in our conversation.

Those who have been rated 100 percent disabled by the Veterans Administration have been so rated because they have been physically or psychologically injured through combat action, accident, or just through the wear and tear of a career of service. Whatever the reason for this level of disability rating, they have paid a price to which this country, and the state of North Dakota owe a debt of gratitude. I believe this request is a reasonable consideration and demonstrates our gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

To put some numbers to this discussion, there were 341 veterans rated 100 percent disabled who utilized the veteran combined hunting license in 2023. As an aside, there were 326 veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled who obtained fishing licenses. I believe the numbers of those who would use this benefit are low in comparison to the approximately 50,000 deer licenses available by the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you with this request. I will stand for any questions.

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Mike Wobbema
District 24

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2199
1/23/2025

Relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

11:00 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Staggering deer tag lottery

11:00 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the discussion on the bill.

11:01 a.m. Senator Gerhardt asked for time to work on an amendment.

11:04 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

2025 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

SB 2199
1/24/2025

Relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

9:15 a.m. Chairman Patten opened the hearing.

Members present:

Chairman Patten, Vice Chairman Kessel, Senators: Beard, Boehm, Enget, Gerhardt, and Van Oosting.

Discussion Topics:

- Clarification on deer license
- Intended for deer gun application
- Bonus points
- Deer gun vs. Muzzle loader
- Automatic deer license for any deer
- Insert language

9:22 a.m. Recessed the hearing.

9:29 a.m. Reconvened the hearing.

9:29 a.m. Senator Gerhardt updated the committee on proposed amendment language and submitted testimony #38406.

9:34 a.m. Senator Gerhardt moved amendment LC# 25.0513.01001.

9:35 a.m. Senator Boehm seconded.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:38 a.m. Senator Gerhardt moved as Do Pass as amended.

9:38 a.m. Senator Beard seconded the motion.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Mark Enget	Y
Senator Justin Gerhardt	Y
Senator Desiree Van Oosting	Y

Motion Passed 7-0-0.

9:39 a.m. Senator Gerhardt will carry the bill.

9:39 a.m. Chairman Patten closed the hearing.

Kendra McCann, Committee Clerk

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2199

Introduced by

Senators Wobbema, Luick, Paulson, Weston

Representatives D. Johnston, J. Olson

- 1 A BILL for an Act to create and enact a new subsection to section 20.1-03-11 of the North
2 Dakota Century Code, relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

- 4 **SECTION 1.** A new subsection to section 20.1-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is
5 created and enacted as follows:

- 6 A resident disabled veteran who has a one hundred percent service-connected
7 disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs is entitled to shall
8 receive a deer license to hunt any legal deer. A deer license issued under this
9 subdivision must be issued without being subject to the lottery for deer hunting
10 licenses one bonus point each year to an application for a deer license issued by
11 lottery. Bonus points received under this section are in addition to any other bonus
12 points received by the department and must reset after receiving a deer license issued
13 by lottery.

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
SB 2199**

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman) recommends **AMENDMENTS (25.0513.01001)** and when so amended, recommends **DO PASS** (7 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2199 was placed on the Sixth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect workforce development.

25.0513.01001
Title.02000

Prepared by the Legislative Council
staff for Senator Gerhardt
January 23, 2025

Sixty-ninth
Legislative Assembly
of North Dakota

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO

SENATE BILL NO. 2199

Introduced by

Senators Wobbema, Luick, Paulson, Weston

Representatives D. Johnston, J. Olson

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- 7 disability as determined by the department of veterans' affairs ~~is entitled to~~ shall
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- 11 lottery. Bonus points received under this section are in addition to any other bonus
- 12 points received by the department and must reset after receiving a deer license issued
- 13 by lottery.

2025 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SB 2199

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2199

3/7/2025

Relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

11:06 a.m. Chairman Porter called the hearing to order.

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,
Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Veteran hunting licenses
- Veteran disabilities
- Veteran injuries
- General lottery

11:07 a.m. Senator Wobbema introduced the bill and submitted testimony. #39562

11:12 a.m. John Bradley, testified in opposition and submitted testimony. #39490

11:14 a.m. Jeb Williams, Executive Director, North Dakota Game and Fish, answered questions for the committee.

11:25 a.m. Chairman Porter adjourned the meeting.

Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
SENATE BILL 2199
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE
MARCH 7, 2025

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

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation (NDWF). We are opposed to SB 2199. NDWF believes our service members and veterans deserve the utmost respect, we are put in a hard position to testify against this bill. We struggle with opening up the deer lottery to recognize service, whether that's veterans, active service members, EMTs, police officers, firefighters or anyone else who is deserving. With potentially thousands of North Dakota veterans who would be eligible for a bonus point in the lottery, units where it could take anywhere from 5-10 years for the general lottery hunter to draw a tag, could take even longer.

There is also confusion with the current language on whether the added points accumulate over time or if an additional point is added for that individual year. Does the added point go away after that year's lottery or does it stay and another point is added again next year?

Currently there are other options for disabled veterans to participate in hunts, including the Camp Grafton Annual Disabled Veteran Deer Hunt and the Theodore Roosevelt National Park cow elk cull. Additionally, there are numerous pheasant, waterfowl and other hunts offered for veterans from local on the ground clubs.

We believe there are other ways outside of watering down the deer lottery to recognize the sacrifice that disabled veterans have made. We urge a Do Not Pass on SB 2199.

69th Legislative Session
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
7 March 2025

Good morning, Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee. I am Senator Mike Wobbema, District 24. In the interest of transparency, I am a veteran with a 90 percent disability rating by the Veterans Administration.

Senate Bill 2099 is intended to provide a special privilege to those military veterans who have paid a significant physical toll in the service to our great country. As originally written, it provided for the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish to provide to veterans who are rated 100 percent disabled by the Veterans Administration a deer license upon request, without regard to the lottery system. As amended, it retains the requirement to apply for a license through the lottery system but provides for an accelerated accumulation of "points" to allow for the possibility of obtaining a deer license on a more frequent basis. I think the amendment is a reasonable accommodation in considering this bill. This Bill came about as a result of a conversation with a constituent during this last campaign season. His comments to me were based upon a frustration of waiting several years to obtain a deer license, mentioning his service and disability (He is rated at 100 percent by the VA). I thought he had a point and hence this legislation request. Incidentally, and to make the point of the cost of service, on separate occasions he had been shot in the leg, stabbed in the shoulder, and had an eye knocked out of its socket during combat operations, though you wouldn't know it to look at him. His love for hunting though, was very clearly evident in our conversation.

Those who have been rated 100 percent disabled by the Veterans Administration have been so rated because they have been physically or psychologically injured through combat action, accident, or just through the wear and tear of a career of military service. Whatever the reason for this level of disability rating, they have paid a price to which this country, and the state of North Dakota owe a debt of gratitude. I believe this request is a reasonable consideration and demonstrates our gratitude for their service and sacrifice.

To put some numbers to this discussion, there were 341 veterans rated 100 percent disabled who utilized the veteran combined hunting license in 2023. As an aside, there were 326 veterans rated 50 percent or more disabled who obtained fishing licenses. I believe the numbers of those who would use this benefit are low in comparison to the approximately 50,000 plus or minus deer licenses available by the North Dakota Department of Game and Fish.

Thank you for the opportunity to come before you with this request. I will stand for any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

Senator Mike Wobbema
District 24

2025 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

SB 2199
3/21/2025

Relating to disabled veteran deer hunting licenses.

9:43 a.m. Chairman Porter opened meeting

Members Present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman Anderson, Vice Chair Novak,
Representatives: Dockter, Hagert, Headland, Heinert, Johnson, Marschall, Olson, Ruby,
Conmy, Foss

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

9:43 a.m. Representative M. Ruby moved Do Not Pass.

9:44 a.m. Representative J. Olson seconded the motion.

Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Anna Novak	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Austin Foss	Y
Representative Jared c. Hagert	Y
Representative Craig Headland	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Jorin Johnson	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Jeremy L. Olson	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	Y

Motion Passed: 13-0-0

9:45 a.m. Representative Novak moved to place the bill on the Consent Calendar.

9:45 a.m. Representative Hagert seconded the motion.

Voice vote on the motion: passed.

Bill carrier: Representative J. Olson

9:45 a.m. Chairman Porter closed the meeting.

Addison Randazzo for Leah Kuball, Committee Clerk

**REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE
ENGROSSED SB 2199 ([25.0513.02000](#))**

Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** and **BE PLACED ON THE CONSENT CALENDAR** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT OR EXCUSED AND NOT VOTING). SB 2199 was placed on the Tenth order on the calendar.