
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

SB 6260

Brief Description: Providing hunting and fishing opportunities to seriously ill children.

Sponsors: Senators Kilmer, Swecker, Jacobsen, Morton, Schoesler, Sheldon, Murray and Rasmussen.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows the Department of Fish and Wildlife to provide additional fishing and hunting opportunities to terminally ill individuals, including the transfer of special permits and the provision of licenses without charge.

Hearing Date: February 20, 2008

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

Other than for carp, smelt, crawfish, and bullfrogs, a recreational license issued by the Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is required in order to hunt or fish for wild animals, wild birds, fish, shellfish, and seaweed (RCW 77.32.010). The fee for most recreational licenses are set in statute, and most license sales are accompanied by a transaction fee used to fund an automated licensing system (RCW 77.32.050).

Hunting and fishing licenses can take a number of forms. Once purchased, however, the permission to hunt or fish is generally not transferrable to another person.

Summary of Bill:

The director of the WDFW has the discretionary authority to provide hunting and fishing licenses, tags, permits, and stamps without charging a fee to individuals who are terminally ill. To facilitate hunting opportunities for terminally ill individuals, the WDFW may accept special

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permits or other permits for hunting opportunities from donors. The donated permits must be distributed to terminally ill individuals.

The WDFW may also take other actions that facilitate hunting and fishing opportunities for terminally ill individuals, including entering into agreements with willing landowners and adopting any necessary rules.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.