

## Halverson, Vicky

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**From:** George Meyer [georgemeyer@tds.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2009 10:48 AM  
**To:** Kerkman, Samantha  
**Subject:** [Possible Spam] In Thursday's Session, Please Vote for AB 222, SB 167 and SB 112

**Importance:** Low

Dear Representative:

Please vote for AB 222 and SB 167, Wisconsin's Hunting Mentorship Program Bills, which have been lead sponsored by Rep. Ann Hraychuck, Rep. Scott Gunderson and Sen. Jim Holperin. These are excellent bills which will increase the ability of interested youth and adults to become safely involved in hunting in the State of Wisconsin.

The mentorship program, which will be open to youth age 10 and older and interested adults, will allow for a highly safe trial hunting experience, one on one with a mentor. Getting more youth and adults involved in hunting is critical to Wisconsin. The aging demographics of this state means that over the next 10 to 20 years many men and women will retire from hunting. Maintaining a strong base of hunters is critical for many reasons including the keeping of Wisconsin's deer herd in check and secondly, because the major fish and wildlife programs that are funded by hunting and fishing licenses benefit all Wisconsin citizens and Wisconsin's important tourism industry. These bills will help offset this demographic loss of hunters by allowing young and old alike an easier but safe opportunity to engage in hunting.

In addition, once again in a highly supervised manner, these bills allow youth under the age of 12 to engage in target practice with a firearm. Candidly, many people do not realize that it is not legal to do so now. Many parents already are having their sons and daughters target practice before they are old enough to hunt so that they are more comfortable with their firearms and are more skilled before they take to the field and forest to hunt. This provision will add to the already high safety record that hunting has in the State of Wisconsin,

The Hunting Mentorship Program is one of the two highest legislative priorities of the Wisconsin Wildlife Federation this session.

In addition the Wildlife Federation and the Wisconsin Trappers Association respectfully request that you vote for SB 112 lead sponsored by Rep. Ann Hraychuck, Rep. Scott Gunderson, Sen. Jim Holperin and Sen. Neal Kedzie.

This bill updates some very antiquated provisions of state statutes relating to the sale and possession of legally trapped fur. This bill changes the time frames when the pelts of various fur bearers can be possessed and sold. The changes to the current statute which originated in the 1920's, changes the possession and sale deadlines of harvested fur and are appropriate due to improved refrigeration and the advancement of modern date conservation law enforcement technology. It also allows trappers to achieve better market prices for the fur that they harvest.

The bill also allows trappers to substitute their DNR customer number for their name and address on each trap that they place. This will save trappers the expense and hassle when they relocate and would have to replace the trap tags. The Department of Natural Resources supports this bill and provided major assistance in its drafting.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

George Meyer  
Executive Director  
Wisconsin Wildlife Federation