

HOUSE BILL NO. HB0121

Wild bison hunting licenses-preference point system.

Sponsored by: Representative(s) Edwards, Biteman, Blackburn, Haley, Hunt, Jennings, Laursen, Lone, Loucks and Steinmetz and Senator(s) Driskill and Hicks

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; establishing a preference
2 point system for the issuance of wild bison hunting
3 licenses; prohibiting the issuance of complimentary wild
4 bison licenses; making conforming amendments; specifying
5 applicability; and providing for an effective date.

6

7 *Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:*

8

9 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-705(a), 23-2-101(k) and (m),
10 23-2-107(c)(i) and by creating new subsections (g) through
11 (k) and 23-2-109 are amended to read:

12

1 **23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; one-shot antelope**
2 **hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt licenses;**
3 **gratuitous licenses; donated licenses.**

4
5 (a) At the request of the governor, the commission
6 shall annually issue up to twenty-five (25) complimentary
7 hunting and twenty-five (25) complimentary fishing
8 licenses. Not more than five (5) big horn sheep and five
9 (5) moose ~~and five (5)~~ licenses shall be issued under this
10 subsection. No wild bison licenses shall be issued under
11 this subsection. The five (5) year restriction imposed on
12 the receipt of a moose or big horn sheep license by W.S.
13 23-1-703(b) and any restriction imposed on taking of wild
14 bison under commission rule and regulation shall not be
15 applicable in any manner to a license issued pursuant to
16 this subsection. Except as provided under subsection (g)
17 of this section, no complimentary licenses may be issued at
18 the request of the appointed commissioners. Immediately
19 upon issuance of any of these licenses, the commission
20 shall submit to the secretary of state for maintenance as a
21 public record, the name and address of each licensee and
22 the type of license issued.

23

1 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**
2 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**
3 **required.**

4
5 (k) Any resident qualified to purchase a moose or ram
6 big horn sheep hunting license under subsection (j) of this
7 section or any wild bison hunting license under W.S.
8 23-2-107 may pay a fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) in lieu of
9 applying for a moose, wild bison or ram big horn sheep
10 hunting license. Payment of the fee for a particular
11 species under this subsection shall authorize the person to
12 accumulate points under W.S. 23-1-703(b) or 23-2-107(g), as
13 applicable, for that year in the same manner as if he had
14 unsuccessfully applied for a hunting license for that
15 species. Payment of the fee shall be made in compliance
16 with application dates.

17
18 (m) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, as
19 part of any preference point program for nonresident
20 antelope, nonresident ram bighorn sheep, nonresident moose,
21 nonresident deer, nonresident wild bison or nonresident
22 elk, the commission may establish a nonrefundable fee to be
23 either withheld from the license fee, remitted or submitted

1 separately when application for a license or preference
2 point is made through electronic licensing, and may also
3 establish a fee to be paid in lieu of applying for licenses
4 that are limited in quota. Retention of the established fee
5 or payment of the fee in lieu of applying shall authorize
6 the person to accumulate a preference point for future
7 drawings for licenses that are limited in quota for the
8 applicable species in accordance with rules of the
9 commission. The rules may provide for the loss of all
10 accumulated points for persons failing to apply or to pay
11 the in lieu fee in two (2) consecutive calendar years. The
12 fee for any program under this subsection for antelope,
13 deer or elk shall be established by rule and shall not
14 exceed seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) per species. Payment
15 of the fee shall be made in compliance with application
16 dates. Nothing in this subsection authorizes the commission
17 to establish or retain a fee for resident moose, resident
18 wild bison or resident ram bighorn sheep license preference
19 points in addition to the fee established by subsection (k)
20 of this section or to establish rules for ram bighorn
21 sheep, wild bison or moose preference point drawings in
22 conflict with the provisions of W.S. 23-1-703(b) or
23 23-2-107(g). For nonresident ram bighorn sheep, nonresident

1 wild bison and nonresident moose licenses, the commission
2 may establish by rule a nonrefundable preference point fee
3 to be withheld from either the license fee remitted or
4 submitted separately when application for a license or
5 preference point is made through electronic licensing and
6 may establish a fee in lieu of making application in an
7 amount greater than that established under subsection (k)
8 of this section, but neither fee shall exceed one hundred
9 fifty dollars (\$150.00). Fees established under this
10 subsection may be set at lower amounts for youth license
11 applicants.

12

13 **23-2-107. Wild bison licenses; promulgation of rules;**
14 **preference point system; fees; restrictions.**

15

16 (c) The commission shall promulgate reasonable rules
17 and regulations regulating wild bison licenses and the
18 management of wild bison. The rules shall provide for:

19

20 (i) License drawing procedures, in accordance
21 with subsections (g) through (k) of this section;

22

1 (g) The department shall issue wild bison licenses
2 under this section for both bulls and cows. Except as
3 otherwise provided in this subsection, subsection (j) of
4 this section and W.S. 23-1-705(a), no person may receive
5 more than one (1) bull wild bison license in their lifetime
6 and not more than one (1) cow wild bison license in any
7 consecutive five (5) year period. Each bull or cow type of
8 license issued under this subsection shall be issued
9 partially through a preference point drawing and partially
10 through a random drawing of all remaining unsuccessful
11 applicants for that year. The department shall assign
12 points to each wild bison license applicant within a
13 license type which is equal to the number of years the
14 applicant has unsuccessfully applied for a license of that
15 type. The calculation used to assign points to a wild bison
16 license applicant under this subsection shall include any
17 year the applicant does not apply for a wild bison hunting
18 license of that type, provided in the case of a resident
19 the applicant pays the fee specified in W.S. 23-2-101(k)
20 and in the case of a nonresident the applicant pays the
21 appropriate fee established by the commission under W.S.
22 23-2-101(m). License applicants within each hunt area shall
23 be grouped according to the number of assigned points for

1 wild bison of that type. Not less than seventy-five percent
2 (75%) of available licenses of a type within any hunt area
3 shall be randomly selected through a preference point
4 drawing from among the group of applicants with the largest
5 number of assigned points within that type and shall
6 continue until all applicants within that group have been
7 exhausted or until all available licenses have been issued,
8 whichever occurs first. If any applicant grouping has been
9 exhausted and licenses of that type remain available within
10 that hunt area, selection shall continue from among the
11 group of applicants within that type with the next largest
12 number of assigned points. After the selections through the
13 preference point drawing have been completed within a hunt
14 area, the remaining licenses of that type available from
15 that drawing and the licenses available for the random
16 drawing for that hunt area shall be issued through a random
17 selection from among all applicants of that type in the
18 hunt area who were not selected for the issuance of a wild
19 bison license of that type through the preference point
20 drawing in that hunt area. For purposes of assigning points
21 under this subsection, any unsuccessful license applicant
22 failing to apply for a license, or pay the applicable fee
23 in lieu of applying, during the second calendar year shall

1 be considered to be a first year applicant for any
2 subsequent calendar year in which the applicant submits a
3 license application for wild bison of the type.

4
5 (h) The commission shall reserve seventy-five percent
6 (75%) of the wild bison licenses of each type under
7 subsection (g) of this section to be issued in any one (1)
8 year for resident hunters.

9
10 (j) Notwithstanding W.S. 23-1-704, any person who is
11 issued and purchases a wild bison license of any type and
12 is unable to use that license, for good cause as provided
13 by regulations, for the year in which the license was
14 issued, may reserve a wild bison license of the same type
15 for use during the immediately succeeding calendar year by
16 applying to the commission before the opening date of the
17 season during the year for which the initial license is
18 issued. The initial wild bison license shall accompany the
19 application. Upon receipt, the commission shall cancel the
20 initial license and prior to the season opening date for
21 wild bison during the immediately succeeding calendar year,
22 issue to the applicant at an administrative cost not less
23 than ten dollars (\$10.00) and not to exceed four percent

1 (4%) of the cost of the initial license, a wild bison
2 license valid for that year of the same type.

3
4 (k) This section shall not apply to privately owned
5 bison.

6
7 **23-2-109. Multiple applications for limited licenses**
8 **prohibited; penalty.**

9
10 Except as otherwise authorized by law or rule of the
11 commission, no person shall submit more than one (1)
12 application for a license for the same big or trophy game
13 species or for wild turkey or wild bison, if the issuance
14 of the license has been limited by the commission. A
15 violation of this subsection shall be punishable as a high
16 misdemeanor punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii),
17 by the loss of all points then assigned to the person
18 pursuant to W.S. 23-1-703(b) or (g) or 23-2-107(g), and
19 disqualification in the year of submission for any license
20 for the species for which the multiple applications were
21 submitted.

22

1 **Section 2.** This act applies to a wild bison license
2 issued on or after July 1, 2018.

3

4 **Section 3.** This act is effective July 1, 2018.

5

6

(END)