

## SENATE FILE NO. SF0088

Hunting licenses-weighted bonus points system.

Sponsored by: Joint Travel, Recreation, Wildlife & Cultural  
Resources Interim Committee

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; establishing a weighted  
2 bonus points program for ram bighorn sheep and moose  
3 hunting license random draws; removing the preference point  
4 drawing for ram bighorn sheep and moose; providing for the  
5 calculation of weighted bonus points; making conforming  
6 amendments; specifying applicability; requiring rulemaking;  
7 and providing for effective dates.

8

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

10

11 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-107(a), (b)(intro), (ii),  
12 (h)(intro), (iii) and (j), 23-1-703(b) and (g) and  
13 23-2-101(g), (k) and (m) are amended to read:

14

1           **23-1-107. Residency for obtaining game and fish**  
2 **licenses.**

3  
4           (a) Except as otherwise provided in this section, to  
5 qualify for any resident game and fish license, bonus  
6 point, preference point, permit or tag issued under this  
7 act, a person shall be domiciled in Wyoming for not less  
8 than one (1) full year immediately preceding the date the  
9 person applies for the license, bonus point, preference  
10 point, permit or tag and shall not have claimed residency  
11 in any other state, territory or country for any purpose  
12 during that one (1) year period.

13  
14           (b) Each person applying for a license, bonus point,  
15 preference point, permit or tag under this act shall  
16 establish his own residency status independently or as  
17 provided in this subsection or subsection (g) of this  
18 section. A minor dependent shall qualify as a resident if:

19  
20           (ii) His noncustodial parent qualifies as a  
21 resident under this act and the minor is or will be  
22 residing in this state with the noncustodial parent during  
23 any portion of the calendar year in which the license,

1 permit or stamp is to be used or in the case of a bonus  
2 point or preference point the calendar year in which the  
3 bonus point or preference point is to be accumulated.

4

5 (h) An applicant shall provide proof of residency and  
6 swear to an oath of residency when making application for,  
7 or attempting to purchase, a resident license, bonus point,  
8 preference point, permit or tag under this act. License  
9 selling agents and the department shall consider as  
10 documentary evidence of residency any of the following:

11

12 (iii) A proof of residency statement on a form  
13 provided by the department that has been completed and  
14 signed by the applicant. Any active duty member of the  
15 armed forces, his spouse or minor dependent of the active  
16 duty member making application for or purchasing a resident  
17 license, bonus point, preference point, permit or tag shall  
18 be required to complete and submit the proof of residency  
19 statement; or

20

21 (j) The commission may promulgate rules and  
22 regulations in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative  
23 Procedure Act to ensure that only bona fide Wyoming

1 residents as defined in this act are issued resident game  
2 and fish licenses, bonus points, weighted bonus points,  
3 preference points, permits and tags.

4

5 **23-1-703. Limitation of number of certain licenses;**  
6 **reservation of certain licenses; reservation of certain**  
7 **unused licenses.**

8

9 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, no  
10 person may apply for and receive more than one (1) cow or  
11 calf moose or one (1) ewe or lamb bighorn sheep license in  
12 any consecutive five (5) year period. Licenses issued under  
13 this subsection shall be issued ~~partially for moose and ram~~  
14 bighorn sheep through a ~~preference~~ weighted bonus point  
15 random drawing. ~~and partially through a random drawing of~~  
16 ~~all remaining unsuccessful applicants for that year.~~ The  
17 department shall assign bonus points to each license  
18 applicant for a ~~specific species~~ moose or ram bighorn sheep  
19 by multiplying the number of years the applicant has  
20 unsuccessfully applied for a license times one (1). A  
21 license applicant's assigned bonus points are then squared  
22 for the license applicant's total entry in the sum of the  
23 assigned bonus points for the weighted bonus point random

1 drawing. The calculation used to assign bonus points to an  
2 applicant for a ~~particular species~~ moose or ram bighorn  
3 sheep under this subsection shall include any year the  
4 applicant does not apply for a big or trophy game animal  
5 hunting license for that species, provided in the case of a  
6 resident the applicant pays the fee specified in W.S.  
7 23-2-101(k), and in the case of a nonresident, the  
8 applicant pays the appropriate fee established by the  
9 commission under W.S. 23-2-101(m). ~~License applicants~~  
10 ~~within each hunt area for a species shall be grouped~~  
11 ~~according to the number of assigned points for that~~  
12 ~~species. Not less than seventy five percent (75%) of All~~  
13 available licenses within any hunt area shall be randomly  
14 selected through a ~~preference~~ weighted bonus point drawing  
15 ~~from among the group of applicants with the largest number~~  
16 ~~of assigned points and shall continue until all applicants~~  
17 ~~within that group have been exhausted or until all~~  
18 available licenses have been issued., ~~whichever first~~  
19 ~~occurs. If any applicant grouping has been exhausted and~~  
20 ~~licenses remain available within that hunt area, selection~~  
21 ~~shall continue from among the group of applicants with the~~  
22 ~~next largest number of assigned points. After the~~  
23 ~~selections through the preference point drawing have been~~

1 ~~completed within a hunt area, the remaining licenses~~  
2 ~~available from that drawing and the licenses available for~~  
3 ~~the random drawing for that hunt area will be issued~~  
4 ~~through a random selection from among all applicants in the~~  
5 ~~hunt area who were not selected for issuance of a license~~  
6 ~~for the species through the preference point drawing in~~  
7 ~~that hunt area.~~ For purposes of assigning bonus points  
8 under this subsection, any unsuccessful license applicant  
9 failing to apply for a license, or pay the applicable fee  
10 in lieu of applying, during the second calendar year shall  
11 be considered to be a first year applicant for any  
12 subsequent calendar year in which the applicant submits a  
13 license application for ~~that particular species~~ a moose or  
14 ram bighorn sheep.

15  
16 (g) In addition to the authority granted under  
17 subsection (b) of this section, the commission may through  
18 rule and regulation develop and implement a preference  
19 point program for nonresident antelope, nonresident deer  
20 and nonresident elk licenses which are limited in quota and  
21 would otherwise be issued through a random drawing. A  
22 program established pursuant to this subsection may be  
23 implemented for all or selected hunt areas and may be

1 applied to all or portions of licenses for ~~any particular~~  
2 ~~species~~ antelope, deer and elk. The commission may charge  
3 nonresident license applicants a nonrefundable fee to  
4 accumulate preference points under the program as provided  
5 in W.S. 23-2-101(m).

6

7 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**  
8 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**  
9 **required; donation of refunded application fees.**

10

11 (g) In promulgating rules and regulations for the  
12 taking of bighorn sheep and moose, the commission shall not  
13 discriminate between residents and nonresidents regarding  
14 the maturity and horn size of the animals which may be  
15 taken. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as  
16 prohibiting the commission from issuing a different number  
17 of licenses for residents and nonresidents, from requiring  
18 a bonus point or preference point fee from nonresidents  
19 only pursuant to subsection (m) of this section or from  
20 issuing reduced price ewe and lamb bighorn sheep licenses  
21 as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

22

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

11

12           (m) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, as  
13 part of any bonus point program for nonresident ram bighorn  
14 sheep or nonresident moose and any preference point program  
15 for nonresident antelope, ~~nonresident ram bighorn sheep,~~  
16 ~~nonresident moose,~~ nonresident deer or nonresident elk, the  
17 commission may establish a nonrefundable fee to be either  
18 withheld from the license fee remitted or submitted  
19 separately when application for a license, bonus point or  
20 preference point is made through electronic licensing, and  
21 may also establish a fee to be paid in lieu of applying for  
22 licenses that are limited in quota. Retention of the  
23 established fee or payment of the fee in lieu of applying



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

1 bonus point is made through electronic licensing and may  
2 establish a fee in lieu of making application in an amount  
3 greater than that established under subsection (k) of this  
4 section, but neither fee shall exceed one hundred fifty  
5 dollars (\$150.00). Fees established under this subsection  
6 may be set at lower amounts for youth license applicants.

7

8 **Section 2.** This act shall apply to all moose and ram  
9 bighorn sheep hunting seasons commencing on or after  
10 January 1, 2027.

11

12 **Section 3.** The game and fish commission shall  
13 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions  
14 of this act for transitioning preference points to bonus  
15 points and establishing a weighted bonus point random  
16 drawing for moose and ram bighorn sheep hunting seasons not  
17 later than January 1, 2027.

18

1           **Section 4.**

2

3           (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
4 section, this act is effective January 1, 2027.

5

6           (b) Sections 2, 3 and 4 of this act are effective  
7 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a  
8 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of  
9 the Wyoming Constitution.

10

11

(END)