

SENATE FILE NO. SF0002

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 antlered
3 moose hunting license random draws; removing the preference
4 point drawing for ram bighorn sheep and antlered moose;
5 providing for the calculation of weighted bonus points;
6 making conforming amendments; repealing a provision;
7 specifying applicability; requiring rulemaking; and
8 providing for effective dates.

9

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

11

12 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-107(a), (b)(intro), (ii),
13 (h)(intro), (iii) and (j), 23-1-302(p), 23-1-703(c), (g),
14 (h) and by creating a new subsection (j), 23-1-705(a) and

1 (k), 23-2-101(g), (k) and (m) and 23-2-109 are amended to
2 read:

3

4 **23-1-107. Residency for obtaining game and fish**
5 **licenses.**

6

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

16

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

22

1 (ii) His noncustodial parent qualifies as a
2 resident under this act and the minor is or will be
3 residing in this state with the noncustodial parent during
4 any portion of the calendar year in which the license,
5 permit or stamp is to be used or in the case of a bonus
6 point or preference point the calendar year in which the
7 bonus point or preference point is to be assigned or
8 accumulated.

9

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

16

17 (iii) A proof of residency statement on a form
18 provided by the department that has been completed and
19 signed by the applicant. Any active duty member of the
20 armed forces, his spouse or minor dependent of the active
21 duty member making application for or purchasing a resident
22 license, bonus point, preference point, permit or tag shall

1 be required to complete and submit the proof of residency
2 statement; or

3

4 (j) The commission may promulgate rules and
5 regulations in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative
6 Procedure Act to ensure that only bona fide Wyoming
7 residents as defined in this act are issued resident game
8 and fish licenses, bonus points, preference points, permits
9 and tags.

10

11 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

12

13 (p) The commission may, by rule and regulation,
14 establish a process by which big game licenses, trophy game
15 licenses and wild bison licenses may be issued by a
16 competitive raffle and prescribe the manner of payment for
17 which raffle chances are sold and the amount of payment for
18 each raffle chance. No more than two (2) licenses for each
19 big game species and trophy game species and no more than
20 two (2) wild bison licenses shall be issued under this
21 subsection. Each license issued for bighorn sheep, moose,
22 mountain goat, grizzly bear or wild bison through a
23 competitive raffle shall, when applicable, be counted

1 against any nonresident quota. The five (5) year
2 restriction imposed on the receipt of a moose or bighorn
3 sheep license ~~by W.S. 23-1-703(b) or~~ and the lifetime
4 restriction imposed on the receipt of a grizzly bear,
5 mountain goat, bighorn sheep, wild bison or moose license
6 by W.S. 23-1-703(c), and any restriction imposed on the
7 receipt of a wild bison license by W.S. 23-2-107 shall not
8 be applicable in any manner to a license issued pursuant to
9 this subsection. The commission shall issue licenses upon
10 receipt of the proper license fee by the successful
11 competitive raffle winner. Nothing in this subsection shall
12 authorize the issuance of a license to any person whose
13 privilege to procure, purchase or possess a license has
14 been suspended pursuant to this act or by operation of law.

15

16 **23-1-703. Limitation of number of certain licenses;**
17 **reservation of certain licenses; reservation of certain**
18 **unused licenses.**

19

20 (c) No person may apply for and receive more than one
21 (1) cow or calf moose or one (1) ewe or lamb bighorn sheep
22 license in any consecutive five (5) year period. Except as
23 provided in this subsection and subsection (f) of this

1 section or by rule of the commission, no person who is
2 issued a hunting license on and after July 1, 2022 for a
3 grizzly bear, or for a mountain goat, any moose or antlered
4 moose, any ram bighorn sheep, any bighorn sheep and any
5 wild bison, and no person who, on July 1, 2022, is subject
6 to the five (5) year restriction under subsection (b) of
7 this section for a moose or bighorn sheep license, shall be
8 eligible to apply for or receive a hunting license for that
9 particular species in any future year. The commission may
10 issue hunting licenses to any person in future years when
11 necessary for wildlife management purposes to harvest
12 grizzly bear, mountain goat, ewe or lamb bighorn sheep or
13 cow or calf moose. The commission may issue hunting
14 licenses to any person to harvest cow or calf wild bison
15 pursuant to W.S. 23-2-107(f).

16

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

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

7

8 (h) Rules and regulations shall be promulgated by the
9 game and fish commission to carry out subsections (a)
10 through (f) and (j) of this section and may be promulgated
11 as provided in subsection (g) of this section.

12

13 (j) Licenses issued under this subsection for
14 antlered moose and ram bighorn sheep shall be issued
15 partially through a weighted bonus point random drawing and
16 partially through a preference point drawing. Beginning
17 with the 2026 license year and for each license year
18 thereafter, the department shall convert the points of all
19 applicants who have not more than nineteen (19) preference
20 points to weighted bonus points, and those applicants shall
21 participate in the weighted bonus point drawing. All first-
22 year applicants shall participate in the weighted bonus
23 point drawing. Each applicant with twenty (20) or more

1 existing preference points shall participate in a
2 preference point drawing. The department shall assign bonus
3 points to each applicant for an antlered moose or ram
4 bighorn sheep license by multiplying the number of years
5 the applicant has unsuccessfully applied for an antlered
6 moose or ram bighorn sheep license times one (1). The
7 department shall then square an applicant's assigned bonus
8 points to determine the applicant's total entry for the
9 weighted bonus point random drawing. An applicant's total
10 number of weighted bonus points shall not accumulate year
11 to year and shall be recalculated each year based on the
12 applicant's assigned bonus points. The calculation used to
13 assign bonus points to an applicant for an antlered moose
14 or ram bighorn sheep under this subsection shall include
15 any year the applicant does not apply for an antlered moose
16 or ram bighorn sheep license, provided in the case of a
17 resident the applicant pays the fee specified in W.S.
18 23-2-101(k), and in the case of a nonresident, the
19 applicant pays the appropriate fee established by the
20 commission under W.S. 23-2-101(m). For purposes of
21 assigning any future preference or bonus points under this
22 subsection, any unsuccessful applicant failing to apply for
23 a license or pay the applicable fee in lieu of applying for

1 two (2) consecutive years shall forfeit the applicant's
2 points and shall be considered a first-year applicant for
3 any subsequent calendar year in which the applicant submits
4 a license application for an antlered moose or ram bighorn
5 sheep. Twenty-five percent (25%) of available licenses
6 issued under this subsection for an antlered moose or ram
7 bighorn sheep within any hunt area shall be randomly
8 selected through the weighted bonus point drawing where
9 each applicant has a number of entries equal to the
10 applicant's number of weighted bonus points. Seventy-five
11 percent (75%) of available licenses issued under this
12 subsection for an antlered moose or ram bighorn sheep
13 within any hunt area shall be selected through the
14 preference point draw where the applicant with the highest
15 number of preference points shall be given an advantage in
16 the drawing. Any unsubscribed licenses after the preference
17 point drawing shall be issued in the weighted bonus point
18 drawing. Beginning on January 1, 2032 and for each calendar
19 year thereafter, all applicants with preference points
20 shall have their preference points converted to weighted
21 bonus points. Beginning on January 1, 2032, one hundred
22 percent (100%) of available licenses issued under this
23 subsection for an antlered moose or ram bighorn sheep

1 within any hunt area shall be randomly selected through a
2 weighted bonus point drawing where each applicant has a
3 number of entries equal to the applicant's number of
4 weighted bonus points.

5

6 **23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; pioneer licenses;**
7 **antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt**
8 **licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses.**

9

10 (a) At the request of the governor, the commission
11 shall annually issue up to twenty-five (25) complimentary
12 hunting and twenty-five (25) complimentary fishing
13 licenses. Not more than five (5) bighorn sheep, five (5)
14 moose and five (5) wild bison licenses shall be issued
15 under this subsection. The five (5) year restriction
16 imposed on the receipt of a cow or calf moose, or ewe or
17 lamb bighorn sheep ~~or wild bison~~ license by W.S.
18 ~~23-1-703(b) and (c)~~ 23-1-703(c), and any restriction
19 imposed on taking of wild bison under commission rule and
20 regulation shall not be applicable in any manner to a
21 license issued pursuant to this subsection. Except as
22 provided under subsection (g) of this section, no
23 complimentary licenses may be issued at the request of the

1 appointed commissioners. Immediately upon issuance of any
2 of these licenses, the commission shall submit to the
3 secretary of state for maintenance as a public record, the
4 name and address of each licensee and the type of license
5 issued.

6

7 (k) The holder of any valid big game animal license,
8 trophy game animal license, any wild bison license or a
9 female or calf wild bison license may surrender said
10 license to the department for reissuance to a veteran with
11 disabilities or a person with a permanent disability who
12 uses a wheelchair as established by commission rule and
13 regulation selected and sponsored by a nonprofit charitable
14 organization providing hunting opportunities to a veteran
15 with disabilities or a person with a permanent disability
16 who uses a wheelchair. Any license reissued in accordance
17 with the provisions of this subsection shall be for the
18 same species, area and license type as the license donated.
19 The license shall be reissued by the department to a
20 qualifying person at no fee. Any license donated and
21 reissued under the provisions of this subsection shall not
22 be sold, traded, auctioned or offered for any monetary
23 value and shall not be issued to, or used by, any person

1 other than a qualifying person under the provision of this
2 section and in compliance with commission rule and
3 regulation. Licenses reissued to persons pursuant to this
4 subsection shall not be subject to residency, drawing or
5 fee requirements under W.S. 23-2-101 or 23-2-107. The five
6 (5) year restriction imposed on the receipt of a cow or
7 calf moose or a ewe or lamb bighorn sheep license ~~by W.S.~~
8 ~~23-1-703(b),~~ and the lifetime restriction imposed on the
9 receipt of a grizzly bear, mountain goat, ram or any
10 bighorn sheep, any wild bison or any moose or antlered
11 moose license by W.S. 23-1-703(c) or the restrictions
12 imposed on a wild bison under W.S. 23-2-107(f) shall not be
13 applicable in any manner to a license issued pursuant to
14 this subsection.

15

16 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**
17 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**
18 **required; donation of refunded application fees.**

19

20 (g) In promulgating rules and regulations for the
21 taking of bighorn sheep and moose, the commission shall not
22 discriminate between residents and nonresidents regarding
23 the maturity and horn size of the animals which may be

1 taken. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as
2 prohibiting the commission from issuing a different number
3 of licenses for residents and nonresidents, from requiring
4 a bonus point or preference point fee from nonresidents
5 only pursuant to subsection (m) of this section or from
6 issuing reduced price ewe and lamb bighorn sheep licenses
7 as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

8
9 (k) Any resident qualified to purchase a moose or ram
10 bighorn sheep hunting license under subsection (j) of this
11 section may pay a fee of seven dollars (\$7.00) in lieu of
12 applying for a moose or ram bighorn sheep hunting license.
13 Payment of the fee for a particular species under this
14 subsection shall authorize the person to ~~accumulate~~be
15 assigned bonus points for the purposes of the weighted
16 bonus point drawing under W.S. ~~23-1-703(b)~~23-1-703(j) for
17 that year in the same manner as if he had unsuccessfully
18 applied for a hunting license for that species. Payment of
19 the fee shall be made in compliance with application dates.

20
21 (m) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, as
22 part of any bonus point program for nonresident ram bighorn
23 sheep or nonresident antlered moose and any preference

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

1 moose or resident ram bighorn sheep ~~license preference~~
2 bonus points in addition to the fee established by
3 subsection (k) of this section or to establish rules for
4 ram bighorn sheep or moose ~~preference weighted bonus~~ point
5 random drawings in conflict with the provisions of W.S.
6 ~~23-1-703(b)~~ 23-1-703(j). For nonresident ram bighorn sheep
7 and nonresident moose licenses, the commission may
8 establish by rule a nonrefundable ~~preference bonus~~ point
9 fee to be withheld from either the license fee remitted or
10 submitted separately when application for a license or
11 ~~preference bonus~~ point is made through electronic licensing
12 and may establish a fee in lieu of making application in an
13 amount greater than that established under subsection (k)
14 of this section, but neither fee shall exceed one hundred
15 fifty dollars (\$150.00). Fees established under this
16 subsection may be set at lower amounts for youth license
17 applicants.

18

19 **23-2-109. Multiple applications for limited licenses**
20 **prohibited; penalty.**

21

22 Except as otherwise authorized by law or rule of the
23 commission, no person shall submit more than one (1)

1 application for a license for the same big or trophy game
2 species or for wild turkey, if the issuance of the license
3 has been limited by the commission. A violation of this
4 subsection shall be punishable as a high misdemeanor
5 punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii), by the loss
6 of all points then assigned to the person pursuant to W.S.
7 ~~23-1-703(b) or (g)~~ 23-1-703(g) or (j), and disqualification
8 in the year of submission for any license for the species
9 for which the multiple applications were submitted.

10

11 **Section 2.** W.S. 23-1-703(b) is repealed.

12

13 **Section 3.** This act shall apply to all antlered moose
14 and ram bighorn sheep licenses issued through the
15 preference point draw for hunting seasons commencing on or
16 after January 1, 2032.

17

18 **Section 4.** The game and fish commission shall
19 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions
20 of this act for transitioning preference points to bonus
21 points and establishing a weighted bonus point random
22 drawing for antlered moose and ram bighorn sheep hunting
23 seasons not later than January 1, 2032.

1

2 **Section 5.**

3

4 (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this
5 section, this act is effective January 1, 2032.

6

7 (b) Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this act are effective
8 immediately upon completion of all acts necessary for a
9 bill to become law as provided by Article 4, Section 8 of
10 the Wyoming Constitution.

11

12

(END)