

**DRAFT ONLY
NOT APPROVED FOR
INTRODUCTION**

HOUSE BILL NO.

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 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

1 **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-107(a), (b)(intro) and (ii),
2 (h)(intro) and (iii) and (j), 23-1-703(b) and (g) and
3 23-2-101(g), (k) and (m) are amended to read:

4

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

7

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

17

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

23

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 accumulated.

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

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

1

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

8

9 **23-1-703. Limitation of number of certain licenses;**
10 **reservation of certain licenses; reservation of certain**
11 **unused licenses.**

12

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

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

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

17

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

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

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

12

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

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

12

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

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

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

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

12

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

18

19 **Section 4.**

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

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

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STAFF COMMENT

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10 The Committee may wish to consider the effective date of
11 this act, which is currently delayed until January 1, 2027
12 based on the Wyoming Wildlife Taskforce's recommendation to
13 delay implementation of the weighted bonus point program
14 for up to four years. The purpose for the delay is to allow
15 for long-term applicants with the highest number of
16 preference points to potentially draw a license and allow
17 time for both applicants and Game and Fish Department to
18 transition from preference points to bonus points.

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(END)