

**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 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; repealing a provision; specifying  
7 applicability; requiring rulemaking; and providing for  
8 effective dates.

9

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

11

1           **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-302(p), 23-1-107(a), (b)(intro),  
2 (ii), (h)(intro), (iii) and (j), 23-1-703(c), (g) and by  
3 creating a new subsection (j), 23-1-705(a) and (k),  
4 23-2-101(g), (k) and (m) and 23-2-109 are amended to read:

5

6           **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

7

8           (p) The commission may, by rule and regulation,  
9 establish a process by which big game licenses, trophy game  
10 licenses and wild bison licenses may be issued by a  
11 competitive raffle and prescribe the manner of payment for  
12 which raffle chances are sold and the amount of payment for  
13 each raffle chance. No more than two (2) licenses for each  
14 big game species and trophy game species and no more than  
15 two (2) wild bison licenses shall be issued under this  
16 subsection. Each license issued for bighorn sheep, moose,  
17 mountain goat, grizzly bear or wild bison through a  
18 competitive raffle shall, when applicable, be counted  
19 against any nonresident quota. The five (5) year  
20 restriction imposed on the receipt of a moose or bighorn  
21 sheep license ~~by W.S. 23-1-703(b) or~~ and the lifetime  
22 restriction imposed on the receipt of a grizzly bear,  
23 mountain goat, bighorn sheep, wild bison or moose license

1 by W.S. 23-1-703(c), and any restriction imposed on the  
2 receipt of a wild bison license by W.S. 23-2-107 shall not  
3 be applicable in any manner to a license issued pursuant to  
4 this subsection. The commission shall issue licenses upon  
5 receipt of the proper license fee by the successful  
6 competitive raffle winner. Nothing in this subsection shall  
7 authorize the issuance of a license to any person whose  
8 privilege to procure, purchase or possess a license has  
9 been suspended pursuant to this act or by operation of law.

10

11 **23-1-107. Residency for obtaining game and fish**  
12 **licenses.**

13

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

23

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

6

7           (ii) His noncustodial parent qualifies as a  
8 resident under this act and the minor is or will be  
9 residing in this state with the noncustodial parent during  
10 any portion of the calendar year in which the license,  
11 permit or stamp is to be used or in the case of a bonus  
12 point or preference point the calendar year in which the  
13 bonus point or preference point is to be assigned or  
14 accumulated.

15

16           (h) An applicant shall provide proof of residency and  
17 swear to an oath of residency when making application for,  
18 or attempting to purchase, a resident license, bonus point,  
19 preference point, permit or tag under this act. License  
20 selling agents and the department shall consider as  
21 documentary evidence of residency any of the following:

22

1           (iii) A proof of residency statement on a form  
2 provided by the department that has been completed and  
3 signed by the applicant. Any active duty member of the  
4 armed forces, his spouse or minor dependent of the active  
5 duty member making application for or purchasing a resident  
6 license, bonus point, preference point, permit or tag shall  
7 be required to complete and submit the proof of residency  
8 statement; or

9

10          (j) The commission may promulgate rules and  
11 regulations in accordance with the Wyoming Administrative  
12 Procedure Act to ensure that only bona fide Wyoming  
13 residents as defined in this act are issued resident game  
14 and fish licenses, bonus points, preference points, permits  
15 and tags.

16

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

20

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

1 provided in this subsection and subsection (f) of this  
2 section or by rule of the commission, no person who is  
3 issued a hunting license on and after July 1, 2022 for a  
4 grizzly bear, or for a mountain goat, any moose or antlered  
5 moose, any ram bighorn sheep, any bighorn sheep and any  
6 wild bison, and no person who, on July 1, 2022, is subject  
7 to the five (5) year restriction under this subsection ~~(b)~~  
8 ~~of this section~~ for a cow or calf moose or a ewe or lamb  
9 bighorn sheep license, shall be eligible to apply for or  
10 receive a hunting license for that particular species in  
11 any future year. The commission may issue hunting licenses  
12 to any person in future years when necessary for wildlife  
13 management purposes to harvest grizzly bear, mountain goat,  
14 ewe or lamb bighorn sheep or cow or calf moose. The  
15 commission may issue hunting licenses to any person to  
16 harvest cow or calf wild bison pursuant to W.S. 23-2-  
17 107(f).

18

19 (g) ~~In addition to the authority granted under~~  
20 ~~subsection (b) of this section, t~~The commission may through  
21 rule and regulation develop and implement a preference  
22 point program for nonresident antelope, nonresident deer  
23 and nonresident elk licenses which are limited in quota and

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

9

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

14

15 (j) Licenses issued under this subsection shall be  
16 issued for moose and ram bighorn sheep through a weighted  
17 bonus point random drawing. The department shall assign  
18 bonus points to each license applicant for a moose or ram  
19 bighorn sheep by multiplying the number of years the  
20 applicant has unsuccessfully applied for a moose or ram  
21 bighorn sheep license times one (1). The department shall  
22 then square a license applicant's assigned bonus points to  
23 determine the license applicant's total entry for the

1 weighted bonus point random drawing. A license applicant's  
2 total number of weighted bonus points shall not accumulate  
3 year to year and shall be recalculated each year based on  
4 the license applicant's assigned bonus points. The  
5 calculation used to assign bonus points to an applicant for  
6 a moose or ram bighorn sheep under this subsection shall  
7 include any year the applicant does not apply for a moose  
8 or ram bighorn sheep license, provided in the case of a  
9 resident the applicant pays the fee specified in W.S.  
10 23-2-101(k), and in the case of a nonresident, the  
11 applicant pays the appropriate fee established by the  
12 commission under W.S. 23-2-101(m). For purposes of  
13 assigning bonus points under this subsection, any  
14 unsuccessful license applicant failing to apply for a  
15 license, or pay the applicable fee in lieu of applying,  
16 during the second calendar year shall be considered to be a  
17 first year applicant for any subsequent calendar year in  
18 which the applicant submits a license application for a  
19 moose or ram bighorn sheep. All available licenses issued  
20 under this subsection within any hunt area shall be  
21 randomly selected through a weighted bonus point drawing  
22 where each applicant has a number of entries equal to the



1 applicant's number of weighted bonus points until all  
2 available licenses have been issued.

3

4 **23-1-705. Complimentary licenses; pioneer licenses;**  
5 **antelope hunt licenses; gunpowder and buckskin hunt**  
6 **licenses; gratuitous licenses; donated licenses.**

7

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

1 name and address of each licensee and the type of license  
2 issued.

3

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

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

12

13 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**  
14 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**  
15 **required; donation of refunded application fees.**

16

17 (g) In promulgating rules and regulations for the  
18 taking of bighorn sheep and moose, the commission shall not  
19 discriminate between residents and nonresidents regarding  
20 the maturity and horn size of the animals which may be  
21 taken. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as  
22 prohibiting the commission from issuing a different number  
23 of licenses for residents and nonresidents, from requiring

1 a bonus point or preference point fee from nonresidents  
2 only pursuant to subsection (m) of this section or from  
3 issuing reduced price ewe and lamb bighorn sheep licenses  
4 as provided in subsection (d) of this section.

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

18  
19 (m) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, as  
20 part of any bonus point program for nonresident ram bighorn  
21 sheep or nonresident moose and any preference point program  
22 for nonresident antelope, ~~nonresident ram bighorn sheep,~~  
23 ~~nonresident moose,~~ nonresident deer or nonresident elk, the

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

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

15

16 **23-2-109. Multiple applications for limited licenses**  
17 **prohibited; penalty.**

18

19 Except as otherwise authorized by law or rule of the  
20 commission, no person shall submit more than one (1)  
21 application for a license for the same big or trophy game  
22 species or for wild turkey, if the issuance of the license  
23 has been limited by the commission. A violation of this

1 subsection shall be punishable as a high misdemeanor  
 2 punishable as provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii), by the loss  
 3 of all points then assigned to the person pursuant to ~~W.S.~~  
 4 ~~23-1-703(b) or (g)~~ W.S. 23-1-703(g) or (j), and  
 5 disqualification in the year of submission for any license  
 6 for the species for which the multiple applications were  
 7 submitted.

8

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

10

11 \*\*\*\*\*  
 12 \*\*\*\*\*

**STAFF COMMENT**

13  
 14  
 15 This bill draft repeals W.S. 23-1-703(b) which was the  
 16 previous section providing for the preference points  
 17 program, and instead incorporates the new bonus points  
 18 program in the new subsection (j) created earlier in this  
 19 draft. For reference, W.S. 23-1-703(b) reads:

20  
 21 (b) Subject to subsection (c) of this section, no  
 22 person may apply for and receive more than one (1) cow or  
 23 calf moose or one (1) ewe or lamb bighorn sheep license in  
 24 any consecutive five (5) year period. Licenses issued under  
 25 this subsection shall be issued partially through a  
 26 preference point drawing and partially through a random  
 27 drawing of all remaining unsuccessful applicants for that  
 28 year. The department shall assign points to each license  
 29 applicant for a specific species by multiplying the number  
 30 of years the applicant has unsuccessfully applied for a  
 31 license times one (1). The calculation used to assign  
 32 points to an applicant for a particular species under this  
 33 subsection shall include any year the applicant does not  
 34 apply for a big or trophy game animal hunting license for  
 35 that species, provided in the case of a resident the

1 applicant pays the fee specified in W.S. 23-2-101(k), and  
 2 in the case of a nonresident, the applicant pays the  
 3 appropriate fee established by the commission under W.S.  
 4 23-2-101(m). License applicants within each hunt area for a  
 5 species shall be grouped according to the number of  
 6 assigned points for that species. Not less than seventy-  
 7 five percent (75%) of available licenses within any hunt  
 8 area shall be randomly selected through a preference point  
 9 drawing from among the group of applicants with the largest  
 10 number of assigned points and shall continue until all  
 11 applicants within that group have been exhausted or until  
 12 all available licenses have been issued, whichever first  
 13 occurs. If any applicant grouping has been exhausted and  
 14 licenses remain available within that hunt area, selection  
 15 shall continue from among the group of applicants with the  
 16 next largest number of assigned points. After the  
 17 selections through the preference point drawing have been  
 18 completed within a hunt area, the remaining licenses  
 19 available from that drawing and the licenses available for  
 20 the random drawing for that hunt area will be issued  
 21 through a random selection from among all applicants in the  
 22 hunt area who were not selected for issuance of a license  
 23 for the species through the preference point drawing in  
 24 that hunt area. For purposes of assigning points under this  
 25 subsection, any unsuccessful license applicant failing to  
 26 apply for a license, or pay the applicable fee in lieu of  
 27 applying, during the second calendar year shall be  
 28 considered to be a first year applicant for any subsequent  
 29 calendar year in which the applicant submits license  
 30 application for that particular species.

31  
 32 \*\*\*\*\*  
 33 \*\*\*\*\*  
 34

35 **Section 3.** This act shall apply to all moose and ram  
 36 bighorn sheep hunting seasons commencing on or after  
 37 January 1, 2029.

38



1           **Section 4.** The game and fish commission shall  
 2 promulgate all rules necessary to implement the provisions  
 3 of this act for transitioning preference points to bonus  
 4 points and establishing a weighted bonus point random  
 5 drawing for moose and ram bighorn sheep hunting seasons not  
 6 later than January 1, 2029.

7

8           **Section 5.**

9

10           (a) Except as provided in subsection (b) of this  
 11 section, this act is effective January 1, 2029.

12

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

17

18           \*\*\*\*\*

19

**STAFF COMMENT**

20

21 The Committee may wish to consider the effective date of  
 22 this act, which is currently delayed until January 1, 2029,  
 23 which is based on the original recommendation of the  
 24 Wyoming Wildlife Taskforce to delay implementation of the  
 25 weighted bonus point program for up to four years. The  
 26 purpose for the delay is to allow for long-term applicants  
 27 with the highest number of preference points to potentially  
 28 draw a license and allow time for both applicants and the

1 Game and Fish Department to transition from preference  
2 points to bonus points.

3

4 \*\*\*\*\*

5

6 (END)