

ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2019
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB287

Hearing Date: Thursday January 24, 2019
Committee On: Natural Resources
Introducer: Quick
One Liner: Change and provide duties for the Game and Parks Commission and change provisions relating to stamps, permits, fees, and hunter orange display requirements as prescribed

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:

Aye:	7	Senators Albrecht, Bostelman, Geist, Gragert, Halloran, Moser, Quick
Nay:	1	Senator Hughes
Absent:		
Present Not Voting:		

Oral Testimony:

Proponents:

Senator Dan Quick
Timothy McCoy
Craig Stover
Scott Smathers
John Cariotto

Representing:

Introducer
Nebraska Game and Parks Commission
Nebraska Game and Parks Commisison
Nebraska Sportsmen's Foundation
self

Opponents:

Representing:

Neutral:

Representing:

Summary of purpose and/or changes:

The purpose of the bill is to 1) allow the commission to offer permits for temporarily reduced rates for specific time frames or events; 2) authorize increased annual and temporary park permit fees; 3) allow permit buyers to draw for a permit to purchase a preference point for a fee in lieu of entering a random permit drawing; 4) merge the Aquatic Invasive Species Program fee on boat registrations into the registration fee as required by a federal regulation for a Coast Guard grant program; 5) authorize additional regulations on wearing hunter orange; and 6) other minor changes on promotional information and permit replacement fees.

Explanation of amendments:

The committee amendment, AM 386, reinstates the original language in section 37-438. LB 287 proposed changing the cap on the cost of the annual park permit for residents from \$35 to \$40. The amendment strikes the raised cap, leaving it at \$35. As amended, the bill would do the following:

Sections 1 and 2 amend 37-201 and 37-202, which label this section as the Game Law and identifies where definitions can be found, by adding reference to the new language in this bill.

Sections 3 and 4 create new definitions of "bonus point" (for random permit drawings) and "preference point" (for structured random permit drawings).

Section 5 amends 37-317, which authorizes the commission to disseminate information on state parks and wildlife resources, by adding that promotional materials may also be disseminated.

Section 6 amends 37-407, which provides for multi-year or combo permits for hunting, fishing and fur-harvesting, by authorizing the commission to offer such permits at temporarily reduced rates for specific events or specified timeframes.

Section 7 amends 37-409, which allows for the replacement of lost permits, by adding that replacement fees are not to be charged for permits that are exempt from fees, lifetime permits, and other special permits.

Section 8 amends 37-415, which provides for lifetime hunting and fishing permits, by removing the \$5 replacement fee, but clarifying that the free replacement does not apply to commemorative brass plate permits.

Section 9 amends 37-426, which requires habitat stamps for certain game birds, animals and aquatic organisms, by restructuring the language authorizing the commission to issue lifetime and multi-year habitat, Nebraska migratory waterfowl, and aquatic habitat stamps. Authorizes replacement for lost stamps for no fee, but does not include commemorative brass plate permits. Also authorizes the commission to offer stamps at temporarily reduced rates for specific events or during certain timelines in conjunction with other permit sales.

Section 10 amends 37-438, which provides for annual and temporary park entry permit fees, by raising the cap on the permit annual fee from \$45 to \$55 for nonresidents. Also removes the fee base of \$6 for resident temporary permits and raises the cap for nonresident temporary permits from \$8 to \$10. Again, this allows the commission to offer permits at temporarily reduced rates for specific events or during specified timeframes.

Section 11 amends 37-447, which provides for deer hunting permits and fees, by authorizing the commission to offer temporarily reduced rates for specific events or during specified timeframes, and authorizing preference points for a fee of not more than \$24 for residents and not more than \$72 for nonresidents. The point would be in lieu of entering the random drawing for a deer permit.

Section 12 amends 37-449, which provides for antelope hunting permits and fees, by authorizing the commission to offer temporarily reduced rates for specific events or during specified timeframes, and authorizing preference points for a fee of not more than \$24 for residents and not more than \$72 for nonresidents. The point would be in lieu of entering the random drawing for an antelope permit.

Section 13 amends 37-450, which provides for elk hunting permits and fees, by authorizing preference points for a fee of not more than \$24 for residents and not more than \$72 for nonresidents that would be issued in lieu of entering the random drawing for an elk permit.

Section 14 amends 37-4,111, which provides for paddlefish permits, by authorizing preference points for a fee of not more than \$24 for residents and not more than \$72 for nonresidents that would be issued in lieu of entering the random drawing for a paddlefish permit.

Section 15 amends 37-527, which provides the requirements for wearing hunter orange, by authorizing the commission to set the requirements during other authorized hunting seasons.

Section 16 amends 37-1214, which provides for motorboat registration and fees, by changing the fees from not more than \$23 for Class 1 boats to \$28; from not more than \$46 to \$51 for Class 2 boats; from not more than \$67.50 to \$72.50 for Class 3 boats; and from not more than \$115 to \$120 for Class 4 boats. Also removes the base fee of \$5 for the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, leaving the fee at not more than \$10.

Sections 17 and 18, amend 37-1215, which provides for motorboat registration fees outside of the registration period, and 37-1219, which provides for the remittance of fees, by eliminating reference to the fee for the Aquatic Invasive

Species Program.

Section 19 repeals the original sections.

Dan Hughes, Chairperson