

AMENDMENTS TO LB979

Introduced by Strommen, 47.

1 1. Insert the following new sections:

2 **Sec. 14.** Section 37-455, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
3 amended to read:

4 37-455 (1) The commission may issue a limited permit for deer,
5 antelope, wild turkey, ~~or~~ elk, or mountain lion to a person who is a
6 qualifying landowner or leaseholder or a member of such person's
7 immediate family as described in this section. The commission may issue
8 nonresident landowner limited permits after preference has been given for
9 the issuance of resident permits as provided in rules and regulations
10 adopted and promulgated by the commission. Except as provided in
11 subsection (4) of this section, a permit shall be valid during the
12 predetermined period established by the commission pursuant to sections
13 37-447 to 37-450, 37-452, 37-456, or 37-457. Upon receipt of an
14 application in proper form as prescribed by the rules and regulations of
15 the commission, the commission may issue (a) a limited deer, antelope, or
16 wild turkey permit valid for hunting on all of the land which is owned or
17 leased by the qualifying landowner or leaseholder if such lands are
18 identified in the application or (b) a limited elk or mountain lion
19 permit valid for hunting on the entire elk or mountain lion management
20 unit of which the land of the qualifying landowner or leaseholder
21 included in the application is a part.

22 (2)(a) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and
23 regulations prescribing procedures and forms and create requirements for
24 documentation by an applicant or permittee to determine whether the
25 applicant or permittee is a Nebraska resident and is a qualifying
26 landowner or leaseholder of the described property or is a member of the
27 immediate family of such qualifying landowner or leaseholder. The

1 commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that create
2 requirements for documentation to designate one qualifying landowner
3 among partners of a partnership or officers or shareholders of a
4 corporation that owns or leases eighty acres or more of farm or ranch
5 land for agricultural purposes and among beneficiaries of a trust that
6 owns or leases eighty acres or more of farm or ranch land for
7 agricultural purposes. Only a person who is a qualifying landowner or
8 leaseholder or a member of such person's immediate family may apply for a
9 limited permit. An applicant may apply for no more than one permit per
10 species per year except as otherwise provided in subsection (4) of this
11 section and the rules and regulations of the commission. For purposes of
12 this section, member of a person's immediate family means and is limited
13 to the spouse of such person, any child or stepchild of such person or of
14 the spouse of such person, any spouse of any such child or stepchild, any
15 grandchild or stepgrandchild of such person or of the spouse of such
16 person, any spouse of such grandchild or stepgrandchild, any sibling of
17 such person sharing ownership in the property, and any spouse of any such
18 sibling.

19 (b) The conditions applicable to permits issued pursuant to sections
20 37-447 to 37-450, 37-452, 37-456, or 37-457, whichever is appropriate,
21 shall apply to limited permits issued pursuant to this section, except
22 that the commission may pass commission orders for species harvest
23 allocation pertaining to the sex and age of the species harvested which
24 are different for a limited permit than for other hunting permits. For
25 purposes of this section, white-tailed deer and mule deer shall be
26 treated as one species.

27 (3)(a) To qualify for a limited permit to hunt deer or antelope, the
28 applicant shall be a Nebraska resident who (i) owns or leases eighty
29 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes or a member
30 of such person's immediate family or (ii) is the partner, officer,
31 shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a

1 partnership, corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and
2 regulations under subdivision (2)(a) of this section or a member of the
3 immediate family of the partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary.
4 The number of limited permits issued annually per species for each farm
5 or ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided
6 by eighty. The fee for a limited permit to hunt deer or antelope shall be
7 one-half the fee for the regular permit for such species.

8 (b) A nonresident of Nebraska who owns three hundred twenty acres or
9 more of farm or ranch land in the State of Nebraska for agricultural
10 purposes or a member of such person's immediate family may apply for a
11 limited deer or antelope permit. The number of limited permits issued
12 annually per species for each farm or ranch shall not exceed the total
13 acreage of the farm or ranch divided by three hundred twenty. The fee for
14 such a permit to hunt deer or antelope shall be one-half the fee for a
15 nonresident permit to hunt such species.

16 (c) The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations
17 providing for the issuance of an additional limited deer permit to a
18 qualified individual for the taking of a deer without antlers at a fee
19 equal to or less than the fee for the original limited permit.

20 (4)(a) In addition to any limited permit to hunt deer issued to a
21 qualifying landowner under subsection (3) of this section, the commission
22 shall issue up to eight limited permits to hunt deer during the three
23 days of Saturday through Monday immediately preceding the opening day of
24 firearm deer hunting season to any qualifying landowner meeting the
25 requirements of subdivision (b) of this subsection and designated members
26 of his or her immediate family. The fee for each permit issued under this
27 subsection shall be five dollars. Permits shall be issued subject to the
28 following:

29 (i) No more than eight permits may be issued per qualifying
30 landowner to the landowner or designated members of his or her immediate
31 family, except that no more than one permit shall be issued per person

1 for the qualifying landowner or any designated member of his or her
2 immediate family;

3 (ii) Of the eight permits that may be issued, no more than six
4 permits may be issued to persons who are younger than nineteen years of
5 age and no more than two permits may be issued to persons who are
6 nineteen years of age or older; and

7 (iii) For a Nebraska resident landowner, the number of permits
8 issued shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided by
9 eighty, and for a nonresident landowner, the number of permits issued
10 shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided by three
11 hundred twenty.

12 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the qualifying criteria for a
13 Nebraska resident described in subdivisions (3)(a)(i) and (ii) of this
14 section and the ownership criteria for a nonresident of Nebraska
15 described in subdivision (3)(b) of this section apply.

16 (c) The commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations to
17 carry out this subsection.

18 (5)(a) To qualify for a limited permit to hunt wild turkey, the
19 applicant shall be a Nebraska resident who (i) owns or leases eighty
20 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes or a member
21 of such person's immediate family or (ii) is the partner, officer,
22 shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a
23 partnership, corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and
24 regulations under subdivision (2)(a) of this section or a member of the
25 immediate family of the partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary.
26 The number of limited permits issued annually per season for each farm or
27 ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided by
28 eighty. An applicant may apply for no more than one limited permit per
29 season. The fee for a limited permit to hunt wild turkey shall be one-
30 half the fee for the regular permit to hunt wild turkey.

31 (b) A nonresident of Nebraska who owns three hundred twenty acres or

1 more of farm or ranch land in the State of Nebraska for agricultural
2 purposes or a member of such person's immediate family may apply for a
3 limited permit to hunt wild turkey. Only one limited wild turkey permit
4 per three hundred twenty acres may be issued annually for each wild
5 turkey season under this subdivision. The fee for such a permit to hunt
6 shall be one-half the fee for a nonresident permit to hunt wild turkey.

7 (6)(a) To qualify for a limited permit to hunt elk, (i) the
8 applicant shall be (A) a Nebraska resident who owns three hundred twenty
9 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes, or is the
10 partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the
11 qualifying landowner by a partnership, corporation, or trust as provided
12 in the rules and regulations under subdivision (2)(a) of this section,
13 (B) a Nebraska resident who leases six hundred forty acres or more of
14 farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes or has a combined total of
15 six hundred forty leased and owned acres of farm or ranch land used for
16 agricultural purposes, or is the partner, officer, shareholder, or
17 beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a partnership,
18 corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and regulations under
19 subdivision (2)(a) of this section, (C) a nonresident of Nebraska who
20 owns at least one thousand two hundred eighty acres of farm or ranch land
21 for agricultural purposes, or is the partner, officer, shareholder, or
22 beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a partnership,
23 corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and regulations under
24 subdivision (2)(a) of this section, or (D) a member of such owner's or
25 lessee's immediate family and (ii) the qualifying farm or ranch land of
26 the applicant shall be within an area designated as an elk management
27 zone by the commission in its rules and regulations.

28 (b) An applicant shall not be issued a limited bull elk permit more
29 than once every three years, and the commission may give preference to a
30 person who did not receive a limited elk permit or a specified type of
31 limited elk permit during the previous years.

1 (c) The fee for a resident landowner limited permit to hunt elk
2 shall not exceed one-half the fee for the regular permit to hunt elk. The
3 fee for a nonresident landowner limited permit to hunt elk shall not
4 exceed three times the cost of a resident elk permit.

5 (d) The number of applications allowed for limited elk permits for
6 each farm or ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or
7 ranch divided by the minimum acreage requirements established for the
8 property. No more than one person may qualify for the same described
9 property.

10 (7)(a) To qualify for a limited permit to hunt mountain lions, (i)
11 the applicant shall be (A) a Nebraska resident who owns three hundred
12 twenty acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes, or
13 is the partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the
14 qualifying landowner by a partnership, corporation, or trust as provided
15 in the rules and regulations under subdivision (2)(a) of this section,
16 (B) a Nebraska resident who leases six hundred forty acres or more of
17 farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes or has a combined total of
18 six hundred forty leased and owned acres of farm or ranch land used for
19 agricultural purposes, or is the partner, officer, shareholder, or
20 beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a partnership,
21 corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and regulations under
22 subdivision (2)(a) of this section, or (C) a member of such owner's or
23 lessee's immediate family and (ii) the qualifying farm or ranch land of
24 the applicant shall be within an area designated as a mountain lion
25 management zone by the commission in its rules and regulations.

26 (b) The commission may give preference to a person who did not
27 receive a limited mountain lion permit during the previous years.

28 (c) The application fee for a resident landowner limited permit to
29 hunt mountain lions shall not exceed one-half the application fee for the
30 regular permit to hunt mountain lions.

31 (d) The number of applications allowed for limited mountain lion

1 permits for each farm or ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the
2 farm or ranch divided by the minimum acreage requirements established for
3 the property. No more than one person may qualify for the same described
4 property.

5 **Sec. 15.** Section 37-456, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
6 2024, is amended to read:

7 37-456 The issuance of limited antelope permits pursuant to section
8 37-455 in any management unit shall not exceed seventy-five percent of
9 the regular permits authorized for such antelope management unit. The
10 issuance of limited elk permits pursuant to section 37-455 in any
11 management unit shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the regular
12 permits authorized for such elk management unit. The issuance of limited
13 mountain lion permits pursuant to section 37-455 in any management unit
14 shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the regular permits authorized
15 for such mountain lion management unit.

16 2. Renumber the remaining sections, correct internal references, and
17 correct the repealer accordingly.