

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA
ONE HUNDRED NINTH LEGISLATURE
SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE BILL 1232

Introduced by Strommen, 47; Andersen, 49; Clements, 2; Dorn, 30; Hardin, 48; Ibach, 44; Jacobson, 42; Lippincott, 34; Lonowski, 33; Sanders, 45; Sorrentino, 39; Storer, 43.

Read first time January 21, 2026

Committee: Natural Resources

- 1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to the Game Law; to amend section 37-456,
- 2 Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement, 2024, and section 37-455,
- 3 Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025; to provide for the issuance of
- 4 limited mountain lion permits; and to repeal the original sections.
- 5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1 **Section 1.** Section 37-455, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025, is
2 amended to read:

3 37-455 (1) The commission may issue a limited permit for deer,
4 antelope, wild turkey, ~~or elk~~, or mountain lion to a person who is a
5 qualifying landowner or leaseholder or a member of such person's
6 immediate family as described in this section. The commission may issue
7 nonresident landowner limited permits after preference has been given for
8 the issuance of resident permits as provided in rules and regulations
9 adopted and promulgated by the commission. Except as provided in
10 subsection (4) of this section, a permit shall be valid during the
11 predetermined period established by the commission pursuant to sections
12 37-447 to 37-450, 37-452, 37-456, or 37-457. Upon receipt of an
13 application in proper form as prescribed by the rules and regulations of
14 the commission, the commission may issue (a) a limited deer, antelope, or
15 wild turkey permit valid for hunting on all of the land which is owned or
16 leased by the qualifying landowner or leaseholder if such lands are
17 identified in the application or (b) a limited elk or mountain lion
18 permit valid for hunting on the entire elk or mountain lion management
19 unit of which the land of the qualifying landowner or leaseholder
20 included in the application is a part.

21 (2)(a) The commission shall adopt and promulgate rules and
22 regulations prescribing procedures and forms and create requirements for
23 documentation by an applicant or permittee to determine whether the
24 applicant or permittee is a Nebraska resident and is a qualifying
25 landowner or leaseholder of the described property or is a member of the
26 immediate family of such qualifying landowner or leaseholder. The
27 commission may adopt and promulgate rules and regulations that create
28 requirements for documentation to designate one qualifying landowner
29 among partners of a partnership or officers or shareholders of a
30 corporation that owns or leases eighty acres or more of farm or ranch
31 land for agricultural purposes and among beneficiaries of a trust that

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

14 (b) The conditions applicable to permits issued pursuant to sections
15 37-447 to 37-450, 37-452, 37-456, or 37-457, whichever is appropriate,
16 shall apply to limited permits issued pursuant to this section, except
17 that the commission may pass commission orders for species harvest
18 allocation pertaining to the sex and age of the species harvested which
19 are different for a limited permit than for other hunting permits. For
20 purposes of this section, white-tailed deer and mule deer shall be
21 treated as one species.

22 (3)(a) To qualify for a limited permit to hunt deer or antelope, the
23 applicant shall be a Nebraska resident who (i) owns or leases eighty
24 acres or more of farm or ranch land for agricultural purposes or a member
25 of such person's immediate family or (ii) is the partner, officer,
26 shareholder, or beneficiary designated as the qualifying landowner by a
27 partnership, corporation, or trust as provided in the rules and
28 regulations under subdivision (2)(a) of this section or a member of the
29 immediate family of the partner, officer, shareholder, or beneficiary.
30 The number of limited permits issued annually per species for each farm
31 or ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided

1 by eighty. The fee for a limited permit to hunt deer or antelope shall be
2 one-half the fee for the regular permit for such species.

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

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

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

24 (i) No more than eight permits may be issued per qualifying
25 landowner to the landowner or designated members of his or her immediate
26 family, except that no more than one permit shall be issued per person
27 for the qualifying landowner or any designated member of his or her
28 immediate family;

29 (ii) Of the eight permits that may be issued, no more than six
30 permits may be issued to persons who are younger than nineteen years of
31 age and no more than two permits may be issued to persons who are

1 nineteen years of age or older; and

2 (iii) For a Nebraska resident landowner, the number of permits
3 issued shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided by
4 eighty, and for a nonresident landowner, the number of permits issued
5 shall not exceed the total acreage of the farm or ranch divided by three
6 hundred twenty.

7 (b) For purposes of this subsection, the qualifying criteria for a
8 Nebraska resident described in subdivisions (3)(a)(i) and (ii) of this
9 section and the ownership criteria for a nonresident of Nebraska
10 described in subdivision (3)(b) of this section apply.

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

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

26 (b) A nonresident of Nebraska who owns three hundred twenty acres or
27 more of farm or ranch land in the State of Nebraska for agricultural
28 purposes or a member of such person's immediate family may apply for a
29 limited permit to hunt wild turkey. Only one limited wild turkey permit
30 per three hundred twenty acres may be issued annually for each wild
31 turkey season under this subdivision. The fee for such a permit to hunt

1 shall be one-half the fee for a nonresident permit to hunt wild turkey.

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

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

27 (c) The fee for a resident landowner limited permit to hunt elk
28 shall not exceed one-half the fee for the regular permit to hunt elk. The
29 fee for a nonresident landowner limited permit to hunt elk shall not
30 exceed three times the cost of a resident elk permit.

31 (d) The number of applications allowed for limited elk permits for

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

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

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

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

26 (d) The number of applications allowed for limited mountain lion
27 permits for each farm or ranch shall not exceed the total acreage of the
28 farm or ranch divided by the minimum acreage requirements established for
29 the property. No more than one person may qualify for the same described
30 property.

31 **Sec. 2.** Section 37-456, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,

1 2024, is amended to read:

2 37-456 The issuance of limited antelope permits pursuant to section
3 37-455 in any management unit shall not exceed seventy-five percent of
4 the regular permits authorized for such antelope management unit. The
5 issuance of limited elk permits pursuant to section 37-455 in any
6 management unit shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the regular
7 permits authorized for such elk management unit. The issuance of limited
8 mountain lion permits pursuant to section 37-455 in any management unit
9 shall not exceed seventy-five percent of the regular permits authorized
10 for such mountain lion management unit.

11 **Sec. 3.** Original section 37-456, Revised Statutes Cumulative
12 Supplement, 2024, and section 37-455, Revised Statutes Supplement, 2025,
13 are repealed.