

FINAL BILL REPORT

HB 2649

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Synopsis as Enacted

Brief Description: Enhancing the fish, shellfish, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities for a person with a disability.

Sponsors: Representatives Barkis, Wilcox, Dolan, Doglio, Nealey, Tarleton and McBride; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife.

House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Water, Natural Resources & Parks

Background:

Unlawful Possession of a Loaded Rifle or Shotgun in a Motor Vehicle or upon an Off-Road Vehicle.

A person is guilty of unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle or upon an off-road vehicle if the person carries, transports, conveys, possesses, or controls a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle or upon an off-road vehicle. This provision does not apply in certain circumstances, including where a person possesses a disabled hunter's permit and complies with all Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) rules concerning hunting by persons with disabilities.

Hunting Opportunities for Persons with a Disability.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) must attempt to enhance the hunting opportunities for persons with a disability. The Commission must authorize the Director of the WDFW to issue disabled hunter permits to persons with a disability.

Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal law with the purpose of providing a clear and comprehensive national mandate for the elimination of discrimination against persons with disabilities.

Summary:

The exception to the unlawful possession of a loaded rifle or shotgun in a motor vehicle provision is modified to apply to a person with a disability designation, rather than to a disabled person who possesses a hunter's permit.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

The Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) must enhance the fish, shellfish, and wildlife-related recreational opportunities for a person with a disability. The Commission must authorize the Director of the WDFW to grant a disability designation to a person who meets eligibility criteria established by the Commission by rule. A person granted a disability designation is eligible for reasonable accommodations, as determined by the Director of the WDFW, in order to allow the person to participate in fish, shellfish, and wildlife-related recreational activities.

The Commission must adopt rules governing the conduct of a person with a disability participating in fish, shellfish, and wildlife-related recreational activities, and the conduct of companions permitted to assist such a person.

Votes on Final Passage:

House	97	0
Senate	48	0

Effective: June 7, 2018