

SENATE FILE NO. SF0111

Mule and whitetail deer-separate hunting seasons.

Sponsored by: Senator(s) Driskill, Baldwin, Cooper,  
Dockstader, Hicks, Jones and Schuler and  
Representative(s) Larson, JT, Neiman,  
Northrup, Oakley, Sommers, Walters, Western  
and Wylie

A BILL

for

1 AN ACT relating to game and fish; requiring separate  
2 hunting licenses and seasons for mule deer and whitetail  
3 deer; making conforming amendments; and providing for an  
4 effective date.

5

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

7

8       **Section 1.** W.S. 23-1-101(a)(i), 23-1-302(a) by  
9 creating a new paragraph (xxxiv) and (h), 23-1-703(g),  
10 23-1-705(c), (e)(i) through (iii), (g) and (j),  
11 23-2-101(f)(intro), (ii), by creating a new paragraph  
12 (iii), by renumbering (iii) as (iv), (j)(xiv) through  
13 (xvii), by creating new paragraphs (xlvii) through (l) and

1 (m), 23-3-102(d), 23-3-105(a) and (b), 23-3-301(a) and (b)  
2 and 35-7-1302(a) are amended to read:

3

4 **23-1-101. Definitions of wildlife.**

5

6 (a) As used in this act:

7

8 (i) "Big game animal" means antelope, bighorn  
9 sheep, mule deer, whitetail deer, elk, moose or mountain  
10 goat;

11

12 **23-1-302. Powers and duties.**

13

14 (a) The commission is directed and empowered:

15

16 (xxxiv) To promulgate rules governing the  
17 issuance of separate hunting licenses and establish  
18 separate hunting seasons for the taking of mule deer and  
19 whitetail deer.

20

21 (h) For purposes of promoting the maintenance of  
22 wildlife habitat and attaining wildlife management  
23 objectives pursuant to W.S. 23-1-103 and in addition to

1 duties prescribed under paragraph (a)(xiv) of this section,  
2 the commission shall promulgate rules and regulations  
3 governing the issuance of elk, mule deer, whitetail deer,  
4 antelope and turkey hunting licenses to Wyoming landowners  
5 without subjection to prescribed means of competitive  
6 public issuance. Fees assessed for licenses authorized  
7 under this subsection shall be equal to fees prescribed  
8 under W.S. 23-2-101(j) for each species for which the  
9 license is issued.

10

11 **23-1-703. Limitation of number of certain licenses;**  
12 **reservation of certain licenses; reservation of certain**  
13 **unused licenses.**

14

15 (g) In addition to the authority granted under  
16 subsection (b) of this section, the commission may through  
17 rule and regulation develop and implement a preference  
18 point program for nonresident antelope, nonresident mule  
19 deer, nonresident whitetail deer and nonresident elk  
20 licenses which are limited in quota and would otherwise be  
21 issued through a random drawing. A program established  
22 pursuant to this subsection may be implemented for all or  
23 selected hunt areas and may be applied to all or portions

1 of licenses for any particular species. The commission may  
2 charge nonresident license applicants a nonrefundable fee  
3 to accumulate preference points under the program as  
4 provided in W.S. 23-2-101(m).

5

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

9

10 (c) In addition the commission may, upon payment of  
11 mule deer and whitetail deer license fees, issue up to  
12 twenty-five (25) mule deer licenses and up to twenty-five  
13 (25) whitetail deer licenses each year for the exclusive  
14 use of gunpowder and buckskin hunts.

15

16 (e) The department shall issue:

17

18 (i) For a fee of two dollars (\$2.00) a resident  
19 mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope or wild turkey license  
20 and for a fee of five dollars (\$5.00) an elk license to any  
21 resident who is at least seventy-five (75) years of age  
22 prior to the issuance of the license and who has

1 continuously resided in Wyoming for at least the fifty (50)  
2 years immediately preceding application for the license;

3

4 (ii) For a fee established by rule of the  
5 commission a resident mule deer, whitetail deer, antelope,  
6 wild turkey or elk license to any resident who is at least  
7 seventy (70) years of age prior to the issuance of the  
8 license and has continuously resided in Wyoming for at  
9 least fifty (50) years immediately preceding application  
10 for the license. The fee established for a license under  
11 this paragraph shall be not more than sixty-five percent  
12 (65%) nor less than sixty percent (60%) of the resident fee  
13 specified in W.S. 23-2-101 for the particular species;

14

15 (iii) Without charge a resident elk, ~~or deer~~  
16 mule deer or whitetail deer license in any hunt area not  
17 subject to prescribed means of competitive public issuance,  
18 a resident game bird and a resident small game license to  
19 any resident who is on active duty in the United States  
20 armed forces deployed to a combat zone who is home on leave  
21 during the applicable hunting season. Application under  
22 this section shall include proof of residency required  
23 under W.S. 23-2-101(a), certification of the applicant's

1 active duty deployment to a combat zone and other  
2 information required by rule and regulation of the  
3 commission. For purposes of this paragraph, a combat zone  
4 is any area which the president of the United States  
5 designates by executive order as an area in which the armed  
6 forces of the United States are engaged in combat;

7

8 (g) In addition to complimentary licenses under  
9 subsection (a) of this section, each appointed commissioner  
10 may cause to be issued at cost not more than a total of  
11 eight (8) elk, mule deer, whitetail deer or antelope  
12 designated licenses per year. All licenses issued under  
13 this subsection shall be designated to nonprofit charitable  
14 organizations. As a condition of accepting the license, the  
15 organization shall agree to auction or otherwise bid the  
16 license to the highest bidder or to raffle the license to  
17 members of the public.

18

19 (j) In addition the commission may issue upon payment  
20 of proper fees any number, set by rule and regulation, of  
21 antelope licenses, mule deer licenses, whitetail deer  
22 licenses, elk licenses and turkey licenses each year for  
23 the exclusive use by persons twenty (20) years of age or

1 younger with life threatening illnesses who are sponsored  
2 by a nonprofit charitable organization with a mission to  
3 provide opportunities and experiences to persons with life  
4 threatening or serious illnesses. As a condition of issuing  
5 the license, the sponsoring organization shall pay the  
6 appropriate license fee on behalf of the licensee and at no  
7 cost to the licensee.

8

9 **23-2-101. Fees; restrictions; nonresident application**  
10 **fee; nonresident licenses; verification of residency**  
11 **required.**

12

13 (f) Forty percent (40%) of available nonresident elk  
14 licenses, forty percent (40%) of available nonresident mule  
15 deer licenses, forty percent (40%) of available nonresident  
16 whitetail deer licenses and forty percent (40%) of  
17 available nonresident antelope licenses for any one (1)  
18 calendar year shall as established by the commission, be  
19 offered to nonresident applicants upon receipt of the fee  
20 prescribed by this subsection. Seventy-five (75) of the  
21 nonresident mule deer and whitetail deer licenses set aside  
22 ~~pursuant to~~ under this subsection shall be used for a  
23 national bow hunt for mule deer and whitetail deer. The

1 licenses authorized by this subsection shall be offered by  
2 drawing to nonresident applicants prior to the drawing for  
3 the remaining nonresident licenses issued. The licenses  
4 offered under this subsection shall be issued in a manner  
5 prescribed by rules and regulations promulgated by the  
6 commission. Nothing in this subsection shall prohibit any  
7 unsuccessful applicant for a nonresident license pursuant  
8 to this subsection from submitting an application for any  
9 licenses remaining after the drawing during the calendar  
10 year in which the application under this subsection was  
11 submitted. The following fees shall be collected by the  
12 department and are in addition to the nonresident license  
13 fee for the appropriate big game species imposed under  
14 subsection (j) of this section and the application fee  
15 imposed under subsection (e) of this section:

16

17 (ii) Nonresident mule deer license .... \$826.00  
18 in addition to the license fee imposed under paragraph  
19 (j)(xv) of this section;

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21 (iii) Nonresident whitetail deer license.....  
22 \$826.00 in addition to the license fee imposed under  
23 paragraph (j)(lvii) of this section;

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~~(iii)~~(iv) Nonresident antelope license.....  
\$874.00 in addition to the license fee imposed under  
paragraph (j)(xxxi) of this section.

(j) Subject to W.S. 23-2-101(f), 23-1-705(e) and the  
applicable fee under W.S. 23-1-701, the following hunting  
licenses and tags may be purchased for the fee indicated  
and subject to the limitations provided:

(xiv) Resident mule deer license; one (1) mule  
deer.....\$40.00

(xv) Nonresident mule deer license; one (1) mule  
deer.....\$372.00

(xvi) Resident youth mule deer license; one (1)  
mule deer.....\$15.00

(xvii) Nonresident youth mule deer license; one  
(1) mule deer.....\$110.00

1           (xlvii) Resident whitetail deer license; one (1)  
2 whitetail deer.....\$40.00

3  
4           (xlviii) Nonresident whitetail deer license; one  
5 (1) whitetail deer.....\$372.00

6  
7           (xlix) Resident youth whitetail deer license;  
8 one (1) whitetail deer.....\$15.00

9  
10           (l) Nonresident youth whitetail deer license;  
11 one (1) whitetail deer.....\$110.00

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13           (m) Subject to the provisions of this subsection, as  
14 part of any preference point program for nonresident  
15 antelope, nonresident ram bighorn sheep, nonresident moose,  
16 nonresident mule deer, nonresident whitetail deer or  
17 nonresident elk, the commission may establish a  
18 nonrefundable fee to be either withheld from the license  
19 fee remitted or submitted separately when application for a  
20 license or preference point is made through electronic  
21 licensing, and may also establish a fee to be paid in lieu  
22 of applying for licenses that are limited in quota.  
23 Retention of the established fee or payment of the fee in

1 lieu of applying shall authorize the person to accumulate a  
2 preference point for future drawings for licenses that are  
3 limited in quota for the applicable species in accordance  
4 with rules of the commission. The rules may provide for the  
5 loss of all accumulated points for persons failing to apply  
6 or to pay the in lieu fee in two (2) consecutive calendar  
7 years. The fee for any program under this subsection for  
8 antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer or elk shall be  
9 established by rule and shall not exceed seventy-five  
10 dollars (\$75.00) per species. Payment of the fee shall be  
11 made in compliance with application dates. Nothing in this  
12 subsection authorizes the commission to establish or retain  
13 a fee for resident moose or resident ram bighorn sheep  
14 license preference points in addition to the fee  
15 established by subsection (k) of this section or to  
16 establish rules for ram bighorn sheep or moose preference  
17 point drawings in conflict with the provisions of W.S.  
18 23-1-703(b). For nonresident ram bighorn sheep and  
19 nonresident moose licenses, the commission may establish by  
20 rule a nonrefundable preference point fee to be withheld  
21 from either the license fee remitted or submitted  
22 separately when application for a license or preference  
23 point is made through electronic licensing and may

1 establish a fee in lieu of making application in an amount  
2 greater than that established under subsection (k) of this  
3 section, but neither fee shall exceed one hundred fifty  
4 dollars (\$150.00). Fees established under this subsection  
5 may be set at lower amounts for youth license applicants.

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7 **23-3-102. Taking certain game animals without license**  
8 **or during a closed season prohibited.**

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10 (d) Any person who knowingly takes any antlered elk,  
11 antlered mule deer, antlered whitetail deer, antlered  
12 moose, horned antelope, bighorn sheep, mountain goat,  
13 mountain lion, grizzly bear or black bear without the  
14 proper license or during a closed season and any person who  
15 knowingly kills a mountain lion during a mountain lion  
16 pursuit season, except as otherwise permitted by this act,  
17 is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by a fine of not less  
18 than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) nor more than ten  
19 thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), imprisonment for not more  
20 than one (1) year, or both. A third or subsequent  
21 conviction within ten (10) years for a violation of this  
22 subsection shall constitute a felony punishable by a fine  
23 of not less than five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) nor more

1 than ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), imprisonment for  
2 not more than two (2) years, or both. For the purposes of  
3 determining whether a violation of this subsection is a  
4 felony, convictions resulting from the same occurrence  
5 shall be considered a single conviction even if the result  
6 of the occurrence is more than one (1) misdemeanor  
7 conviction. The provisions of W.S. 6-8-101(a) shall not  
8 apply to convictions under this section.

9

10 **23-3-105. Antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer and elk**  
11 **coupons; payment to landowner; kill on federal or state**  
12 **land.**

13

14 (a) Antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer and elk  
15 licenses shall have two (2) coupons attached, each bearing  
16 the same serial number as the body of the permit, one (1)  
17 designated "antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer or elk  
18 coupon" and one (1) designated "landowner's coupon".

19

20 (b) The landowner's coupon shall promptly be  
21 detached, dated, signed and delivered to the landowner.  
22 The landowner, on or before March 1 following the close of  
23 the hunting season for which the license was issued, shall

1 deliver to the department the coupon and an affidavit that  
2 the antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer or elk for which  
3 the coupon was delivered was killed on his land. Upon  
4 receipt of the coupon and affidavit the department shall  
5 pay the landowner sixteen dollars (\$16.00) for each coupon  
6 from an antelope, mule deer, whitetail deer or elk license.  
7 Landowner's coupons are not transferable. Any unauthorized  
8 person attempting to collect any sum for any landowner's  
9 coupon is guilty of a high misdemeanor punishable as  
10 provided in W.S. 23-6-202(a)(ii). Effective January 1,  
11 2000, the department shall provide a checkoff box on each  
12 landowner coupon affidavit claim form that offers the  
13 claimant the opportunity to designate the animal damage  
14 management board to receive his payment amount for  
15 landowner coupons claimed on that form. For each claim made  
16 where the landowner has designated his payment to the  
17 animal damage management board, the department shall  
18 transfer that amount to the animal damage management  
19 account created by W.S. 11-6-306 and the department shall  
20 retain the fees related to those administrative costs of  
21 the transfer.  
22

1           **23-3-301. Importation and sale of wildlife**  
2 **prohibited; exceptions.**

3

4           (a) No person shall import into Wyoming from any  
5 source any living antelope, bear, mule deer, whitetail  
6 deer, elk, moose, mountain goat, mountain lion, bighorn  
7 sheep, wolf, wolf hybrid nor any living wildlife except as  
8 otherwise permitted by this act.

9

10           (b) No person shall sell any living antelope, bear,  
11 mule deer, whitetail deer, elk, moose, mountain goat,  
12 mountain lion, bighorn sheep, wolf, wolf hybrid or falcon  
13 except as permitted by the commission.

14

15           **35-7-1302. Donation of game animals.**

16

17           (a) Any game animal, including any big game animal,  
18 elk, mule deer, whitetail deer, mountain sheep, wild goat,  
19 antelope, moose or bear, lawfully taken by a licensed  
20 hunter may be donated to a nonprofit organization under the  
21 provisions of W.S. 35-7-1301 to feed individuals in need.

22

1       **Section 2.** This act is effective July 1, 2026.

2

3

(END)