

2023 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1233

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1233
1/20/2023

Relating to youth white-tail antlerless deer permits

12:03 PM

Chairman Porter opened the hearing. Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones, and Ruby.

Discussion Topics:

- Youth permit data

Representative Mock, Bill Sponsor: support #14670

Pete Hannebut, Director, ND Farm Bureau: spoke in support

Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief, ND Game and Fish Dept.: support #14253

Jared Higgins, Landowner: spoke in support

Additional written testimony:

Ken Carbary # 13529

Chris Buckholz # 13695

Shawn Schafer # 13946

Kendal Jones # 14037

Soren Pyle # 14542

John Bradley # 14680

Closed hearing at 12:14 PM

Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk

By Bev Monroe

2023 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau AB Room, State Capitol

HB 1233
2/10/2023

Relating to youth white-tail antlerless deer permits

10:23 AM Chairman Porter opened the hearing.

Members present: Chairman Porter, Vice Chairman D. Anderson, Representatives Bosch, Conmy, Dockter, Hagert, Heinert, Ista, Kasper, Marschall, Novak, Olson, Roers Jones

Member not present: Representative Ruby

Discussion Topics:

- Youth permit data
- Age to carry rifle

Rep Roers Jones moved Do Pass.

Rep Olson seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Representatives	Vote
Representative Todd Porter	Y
Representative Dick Anderson	Y
Representative Glenn Bosch	Y
Representative Liz Conmy	Y
Representative Jason Dockter	Y
Representative Jared Hagert	Y
Representative Pat D. Heinert	Y
Representative Zachary Ista	Y
Representative Jim Kasper	Y
Representative Andrew Marschall	Y
Representative Anna S. Novak	Y
Representative Jeremy Olson	Y
Representative Shannon Roers Jones	Y
Representative Matthew Ruby	A

Motion Carries 13-0-1. Bill carrier Rep Olson.

10:26 AM Chairman Porter closed the hearing.

*Kathleen Davis, Committee Clerk
By Bev Monroe*

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1233: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB
1233 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2023 SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1233

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1233
3/2/2023

A bill relating to youth white-tailed antlerless deer permits.

1:30 PM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Beard and Boehm are present. Senator Magrum is absent.

Discussion Topics:

- Youth hunting
- Enrichment
- Hunting opportunities
- Responsible hunting
- Mentors

1:30 PM Representative Corey Mock introduced the bill and provided written testimony #21666.

1:37 PM Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief, North Dakota Game and Fish Department, testified in favor of the bill and provided written testimony #21793.

1:42 PM John Bradley, North Dakota Wildlife Federation, testified in favor of the bill and provided written testimony #21598.

Additional written testimony:

Brett Schwan #21277

Bob Matthews #21660

1:44PM Chairman Patten closed the public hearing.

1:44 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1233
3/3/2023

A bill relating to youth white-tailed antlerless deer permits.

10:22 AM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Beard, Boehm and Magrum are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Hunting Mentors
- Hunting safety
- Game and Fish Proclamation

10:22 AM The committee has discussion on the bill relating to safety of youth hunters and their mentors in the field.

10:23 AM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

2023 SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Peace Garden Room, State Capitol

HB 1233
3/9/2023

A bill relating to youth white-tailed antlerless deer permits.

2:25 PM Chairman Patten opened the meeting.

Chairman Patten and Senators Kessel, Kannianen, Boehm, Beard and Magrum are present.

Discussion Topics:

- Committee action

2:25 Committee has discussion on the bill.

2:29 PM Senator Kessel moves to Do Pass the bill. Motion is seconded by Senator Magrum.

2:30 PM Roll call vote is taken.

Senators	Vote
Senator Dale Patten	Y
Senator Jeffery J. Magrum	Y
Senator Todd Beard	Y
Senator Keith Boehm	Y
Senator Jordan L. Kannianen	Y
Senator Greg Kessel	Y

Motion passes 6-0-0.

Senator Magrum will carry the bill.

This bill does not affect workforce development.

2:30 PM Chairman Patten closed the meeting.

Rick Schuchard, Committee Clerk

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1233: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Sen. Patten, Chairman)
recommends **DO PASS** (6 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 0 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB
1233 was placed on the Fourteenth order on the calendar. This bill does not affect
workforce development.

TESTIMONY

HB 1233

HB 1233

I am in support of this BILL 1233. Youth need every opportunity to get out and go hunting. They should be able to use their tag in any open season. Most kids want to go hunting with parents, extending the season for them makes perfect sense. Why should kids be limited to a week of hunting when they are the future of the sport. If they don't start hunting now, they will lose interest and not continue the tradition for the future.

Thanks

Ken Carbary

House bill 1233

My name is Avery Buckholz from Manvel, North Dakota. I'm 12 years old and I am in favor of HB 1233. I really love spending as much time as possible outdoors hunting. I feel that it will be beneficial to all youth to have as much time hunting as possible. I feel with the extended hunting dates there would be more opportunities for youth to experience hunting and the outdoors. This was my first season of deer hunting and it felt rushed, it would be nice to have more time for hunting with my dad. Which is one of my favorite things to do.

Thanks

Avery Buckholz

01/16/23

HB 1233

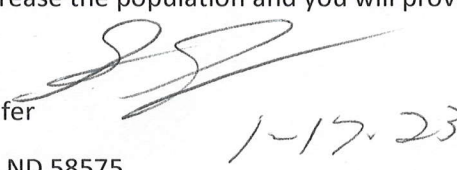
I oppose HB 1233

With Deer numbers at an extremely low level from the Epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) outbreak of 2021, now is not the time to be making the youth season more liberal.

A quality experience is what hooks kids on hunting not an extended season or the killing of an animal. Work to increase the population and you will provide a better experience for generations to come.

Shawn Schafer

Turtle Lake, ND 58575



1-17-23

HOUSE BILL 1233 – YOUTH DEER SEASON

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE, MY NAME IS KENDALL JONES AND I AM WRITING IN SUPPORT OF THE HOUSE BILL 1233 RELATING TO YOUTH WHITE TAIL DEER PERMITS. THIS BILL CHANGES ONLY A SMALL PART OF THE EXISTING LAW THAT WOULD ALLOW YOUTH HUNTERS IN NORTH DAKOTA TO HUNT IN THE REGULAR NORTH DAKOTA WHITETAIL SEASON IN ADDITION TO THEIR DESIGNATED YOUTH SEASON. I PERSONALLY HAVE BEEN HUNTING IN NORTH DAKOTA FOR 5 YEARS, EVEN LONGER BY MY DAD'S SIDE AND I BELIEVE THIS BILL COULD IMPROVE THE HUNTING EXPERIENCE FOR YOUNGER HUNTERS BY GIVING THEM MORE TIME TO FILL ANY ACQUIRED TAGS AND HELP RESOLVE SCHEDULING CONFLICTS. BECAUSE MANY YOUNG PEOPLE ARE IN ACTIVITIES IN THE FALL, TWO WEEKS IS SIMPLY NOT ENOUGH TIME FOR OUR HUNTERS AND WEATHER CONDITIONS CAN COMPLICATE HUNTING FURTHER. ONCE AGAIN, I SUPPORT A DO PASS RECOMMENDATION ON HOUSE BILL 1233.



House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1233

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson Wildlife Division Chief
January 20, 2023

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in support of HB 1233.

The Department is in support of HB 1233. This bill looks to increase opportunity, and hopefully mentors of these young hunters still give them the same attention as they would during the youth deer season if this bill is passed and these youth hunters are allowed to hunt the regular season.

Why should an 11, 12, or 13 year old be able to hunt in youth deer season and regular deer season?

There are tons of kids that don't get deer ~~so~~ if you pass this bill you will ~~make~~ ^{make} ~~it~~ all 11, 12, or 13 year olds boys and girls happy to get a deer. there are ~~bad~~ diseases that kill off a lots of deer. It is really hard to track a deer with no show.

~~Last~~ Last year I sorely pyle, got a deer tag for NP my grandpa was on vacation and I miss + have only 2 weeks ~~to~~ I had to get my deer



North Dakota House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL
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Representative Corey Mock

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COMMITTEES:
Appropriations

January 20, 2023

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee
North Dakota State Capitol – Coteau AB Room
Testimony – HB 1233 (Youth Deer Hunting)

Chairman Todd Porter and Members of the House Energy and Natural Resources Committee:

There are many enriching aspects of being a state legislator, but nothing tops the opportunity to introduce legislation on behalf of our young(er) constituents. HB 1233 was brought forward by an emerging sportsman and her father who recognized an unintended barrier for youth deer hunters.

In 2009, youth deer hunting was expanded to allow 11-13 year old children to receive an antlerless deer gun tag that could be used during a youth deer season. It was widely supported as an introduction to deer hunting and generate interest



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1233
HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMITTEE
JANUARY 20, 2023**

Chairman Porter and members of the House Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports House Bill 1233. The Wildlife Federation has a long history of supporting efforts to get more youth involved in the outdoors - hunting, angling, trapping. We fund youth fishing and hunting days, mentored hunts, and trap leagues across the state. HB 1123 would create a more uniform system for North Dakota's youth deer hunters. The bill would give 11-, 12-, and 13-year old's more time in the field, extending their season from the youth season into the regular gun season. The Federation supports these aspects of the bill.

One point of concern is around safety. In the youth early season, a youth hunter who is hunting under the apprentice license must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter serving the role of mentor. The Federation has heard concerns from our affiliates around that adult being allowed to hunt while also mentoring a non-hunter ed certified youth. We want to ensure a positive and safe experience for our youth hunters and are afraid that if the adult mentor was also hunting, his or her attention may not be solely focused on the youth hunter. We would ask the committee to investigate ways to ensure a safer experience for everyone partaking in the deer gun season.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We urge a Do Pass on HB 1233.

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Brent Schwan. I am a former game warden with the North Dakota Game and Fish Department. In 2009 I was the one who proposed to Roger Rostvet, then Deputy Director of The Game and Fish Department, that we allow 12- and 13-year olds to get whitetail doe licenses for use during the youth deer season so long as they were accompanied by a responsible adult who did not have a weapon. Ultimately, the Department found sponsors and the legislation was introduced and passed.

When I made this proposal to the Department it was for a variety of reasons. At the time, we had a youth deer season that allowed individuals that were 14 and 15 years old to get a one-time youth deer license whereby they could shoot a buck or a doe. There was pressure to allow youth younger than 14 to participate in that season. Also at the time, we had an over population of whitetail does throughout the state. Almost everyone in the State wants to shoot bucks, however, managing doe populations is really how the Department manages deer populations and its importance is often overlooked. I felt this was an excellent opportunity to get these younger kids involved in deer hunting and teach them that harvesting does is a good thing. I also felt it was important though that it was done in a very controlled and personal way, thus the requirement to be accompanied by an unarmed adult. It allowed these youth to have two seasons of mentored hunting under their belts before they were put in a position where they may be hunting during the regular firearms season. I still feel this is extremely important. The regular rifle season is very much a social event in North Dakota, and that's great except when you have young first-time hunters involved. That creates a lot of pressure for those kids and often times puts them in hectic situations with deer drives, animals moving, people moving, etc. It can be a bit overwhelming. Not in every case, but in many cases, it will remove the mentorship element from the hunt and that's what youth hunting should be all about. I know some people claim the youth season requirement is a time issue. If it's really important to you to teach your child the correct way to hunt and spend time with them in the field, you will find a way to take them out. If it's really not that important to you, you'll find an excuse not to go.

I want to stress that I certainly am not anti-youth hunting. I support 100% the opportunity for these youth to hunt or I wouldn't have suggested this season in the first place. I still believe 100% that this should be a youth season only license and that these youth should be accompanied by and mentored by a responsible adult.

I would be in favor of this amendment if the "accompanied" definition was more stringent than it currently is. The current meaning of "to stay within a distance that permits uninterrupted visual contact and unaided verbal communication" is too vague even though I know that's how most other states define it as well but more importantly it leaves out the requirement that the mentor be unarmed. I think this is crucial to the initial intent of this youth season and in the end will lead to a better experience for the child and the mentor.

I urge you to either defeat this bill and maintain the original intent of the legislation or to at least amend it to require a non-hunting mentor to accompany the youth hunters during the regular gun season as well.



NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN BRADLEY
NORTH DAKOTA WILDLIFE FEDERATION
HOUSE BILL 1233
SENATE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCE
COMMITTEE
MARCH 2, 2023**

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee:

For the record, I am John Bradley, Executive Director of the North Dakota Wildlife Federation. I'm here today representing our 1,500 members in 15 affiliated wildlife and sportsmen's clubs across North Dakota that make up the North Dakota Wildlife Federation.

NDWF supports House Bill 1233. The Wildlife Federation has a long history of supporting efforts to get more youth involved in the outdoors - hunting, angling, trapping. We fund youth fishing and hunting days, mentored hunts, and trap leagues across the state. HB 1123 would create a more uniform system for North Dakota's youth deer hunters. The bill would give 11-, 12-, and 13-year old's more time in the field, extending their season from the youth season into the regular gun season. The Federation supports these aspects of the bill.

One point of concern is around safety. In the youth early season, a youth hunter who is hunting under the apprentice license must be accompanied by a licensed adult hunter serving the role of mentor. The Federation has heard concerns from our affiliates around that adult being allowed to hunt while also mentoring a non-hunter ed certified youth. We want to ensure a positive and safe experience for our youth hunters and are afraid that if the adult mentor was also hunting, his or her attention may not be solely focused on the youth hunter. We would ask the committee and the Department to investigate ways to ensure a safer experience for everyone partaking in the deer gun season.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We urge a Do Pass on HB 1233.



Attn: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
Re: House Bill 1233
Date: March 1, 2023
Position: Support

Honorable Members of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources,

I write you today on behalf of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation in support of House Bill 1233, which would expand the hunting opportunities for youth hunters by removing the current limitation that they may only fill a white-tailed antlerless deer permit during the youth hunting season. This would expand opportunities for hunters. I respectfully request that the members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1233.

Founded in 1989, the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation (CSF) is the informed authority across outdoor issues and serves as the primary conduit for influencing public policy. Working with the Congressional Sportsmen's Caucus (CSC), the Governors Sportsmen's Caucus (GSC), and the National Assembly of Sportsmen's Caucuses (NASC), CSF gives a voice to hunters, anglers, recreational shooters, and trappers on Capitol Hill and throughout state capitols advocating on vital outdoor issues that are the backbone of our nation's conservation legacy.

This bill would serve to expand opportunities for youth hunters in North Dakota by allowing those hunters to fill a white-tailed antlerless deer permit outside of the youth hunting season. Allowing youth hunters to participate in the regular white-tailed deer hunting season would bolster crucial hunter recruitment efforts, which in turn would create more North Dakotan hunters contributing to the American System of Conservation Funding, and thereby increase the conservation funds generated by sportsmen and women in the state. With this increased funding, the North Dakota Game and Fish Department would be better equipped to protect the state's storied fish and wildlife populations for future generations.

I respectfully request that the members of this Committee support the passage of HB 1233. I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony and welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert Matthews
Senior Coordinator, Great Lakes States
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
rmatthews@congressionalsportsmen.org | 517-210-2890

Your Inside Connection to Outdoor Legislation

AMERICAN SYSTEM OF CONSERVATION FUNDING



NORTH DAKOTA

	Hunting licenses	Fishing licenses	Pittman-Robertson	Dingell-Johnson	TOTAL
2021 Funding	\$10.77 M	\$4.02 M	\$9.60 M	\$4.83 M	\$29.24 M
2021 National Ranking	33rd	46th	38th	38th	39th
Historical Funding Total	\$283.3 M	\$73.48 M	\$192.0 M	\$115.7 M	\$664.5 M
Historical Funding U.S. Rank	39th	47th	38th	39th	43rd

19% Fishing

13% Hunting

Percent of North Dakota's residents who purchased a hunting or fishing license in 2021

2021 PAID LICENSE HOLDERS

343,530

2021 TOTAL LICENSE PERMITS/TAGS

715,734

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT SPORTSMEN AND WOMEN'S ROLE IN CONSERVATION FUNDING VISIT CONGRESSIONALSPORTSMEN.ORG



North Dakota House of Representatives

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COMMITTEES:

Appropriations

March 2, 2023

Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee
North Dakota State Capitol – Peace Garden Room
HB 1233 (Youth Deer Hunting Season)

Chairman Dale Patten & Members of the Senate ENR Committee:

There are many enriching aspects of being a legislator, but nothing tops the opportunity to introduce legislation on behalf of our young(er) constituents. HB 1233 was brought forward by an apprentice hunter, Avery Buckholz, and her father, Chris Buckholz. Together, they recognized unintended barriers for youth deer hunters and wanted to help find policy solutions.

I encourage you to look online and read Avery's testimony; she was instrumental in HB 1233 passing the House with nearly unanimous support.

North Dakota's youth big game apprenticeship program was created during the 2009 legislative session. Intended to provide a guided and interactive introduction into hunting, this program allowed 11–13-year-old children to receive an antlerless deer gun tag for the exclusive use during a (newly created) youth deer season. Apprentice hunters must be accompanied by a parent, guardian, or designated adult mentor.

North Dakota Game & Fish can speak to the success of this program; anecdotally it has received high praise from families across the state.

A standard lottery-issued deer gun tag is available to hunters beginning in the year of their 14th birthday. Additionally, Game & Fish allows 14–15-year-old emerging hunters to receive a once-in-a-lifetime statewide any deer tag (except antlered mule deer in select units).

Today, there are 2 distinct white-tail deer gun (non-muzzleloader) seasons in North Dakota:

- **Youth Season**

- Two consecutive weekends in September (9 days)
- Open to youth apprentice hunters (ages 11, 12, and 13) with a nonlottery, statewide youth antlerless tag
- Open to youth hunters (ages 14 and 15) with a nonlottery, statewide any deer tag (except antlered mule deer in select units)

- **Regular Season**

- Three consecutive weekends in November (16 days)
- Open to all hunters with a lottery-issued tag (age 14+)
- Open to youth hunters (ages 14 and 15) with a nonlottery, statewide any deer tag (except antlered mule deer in select units)

While access to a dedicated youth hunting season is a net positive for emerging hunters, there are complicating factors that may limit or even dampen the experience for individuals trying to fill their first tag.

School activities are usually in full swing, with tournaments, meets, and practices keeping family schedules overwhelmingly full. Additional factors youth hunters may be facing in September include seasonably warm weather, tighter proximity of fawn, tracking difficulties, and unharvested fields.

Removing these 10 words from line 18 provides Game & Fish discretion to issue antlerless white-tail deer gun tags for 11–13-year-olds for use during the youth and/or regular deer season. This added flexibility will allow young hunters and their families an expanded opportunity to enjoy and appreciate one of North Dakota's greatest pastimes.

Thank you for your consideration and support. I respectfully request favorable consideration on HB 1233.



Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee
Testimony on HB 1233

North Dakota Game and Fish Department
Casey Anderson Wildlife Division Chief
March 2, 2023

Chairman Patten and members of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, my name is Casey Anderson, Wildlife Division Chief for the North Dakota Game and Fish Department (Department). I am testifying today in support of HB 1233.

The Department is in support of HB 1233. This bill looks to increase opportunity by allowing this group of youth hunters to hunt the regular season.