

Sixty-third  
Legislative Assembly  
of North Dakota

**ENGROSSED HOUSE BILL NO. 1131**

Introduced by

Representatives Hofstad, Schmidt, Vigesaa

Senators Carlisle, Lyson, Schaible

1 A BILL for an Act to amend and reenact section 20.1-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code,  
2 relating to big game and gratis licenses; and to declare an emergency.

3 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF NORTH DAKOTA:**

4 **SECTION 1. AMENDMENT.** Section 20.1-03-11 of the North Dakota Century Code is  
5 amended and reenacted as follows:

6 **20.1-03-11. License to hunt big game required - Limitations on licenses.**

7 1. An individual may not hunt, kill, take, or attempt to take any big game without having  
8 the appropriate big game hunting license and a locking seal bearing a number  
9 corresponding to the number of the big game hunting license or stamp. The locking  
10 seal must be issued as an integral part of the big game hunting license. Except as  
11 otherwise provided in this subsection, an individual may not apply for or be issued a  
12 big game hunting license ~~if~~unless that individual's fourteenth or subsequent birthday  
13 ~~does not occur on or before the opening date of~~occurs in the same year as the  
14 ~~respective big game hunting season provided, however, that an individual who is~~  
15 ~~under fourteen years of age and who will be eligible to hunt on the opening date of or~~  
16 ~~during the regular deer hunting season may hunt during the youth deer season.~~ This  
17 age limitation does not apply to applicants for big game licenses for hunting by bow  
18 and arrow. Each violation of this section is a distinct and separate offense. The  
19 following provisions govern youth deer and antelope hunting:

20 a. An individual whose twelfth or thirteenth birthday occurs ~~on or before the opening~~  
21 ~~date of or during the~~in the same year as a youth deer hunting season ~~but is~~  
22 ~~younger than fourteen years of age~~ is entitled to receive a statewide white-tailed  
23 antlerless deer permit but may hunt only in ~~the~~that youth deer hunting season.

- 1           b. An individual whose twelfth or thirteenth birthday occurs ~~on or before the opening~~  
2           ~~date of or during the~~ in the same year as an antelope hunting season ~~but is~~  
3           ~~younger than fourteen years of age~~ is entitled to apply for an antelope permit for  
4           that season.
- 5           c. An individual hunting under subdivision a or b must be accompanied by the  
6           individual's parent, guardian, or other individual authorized by the individual's  
7           parent or guardian. As used in this section, "accompanied" means to stay within a  
8           distance that permits uninterrupted visual contact and unaided verbal  
9           communication.
- 10          2. The number of licenses issued, including those licenses issued without charge under  
11          the provisions of this section, shall not exceed the number of licenses authorized by  
12          the governor's proclamation issued pursuant to section 20.1-08-04.
- 13          3. ~~An individual who is a resident, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability~~  
14          ~~partnership, limited partnership, or partnership that has executed a lease for at least~~  
15          ~~one hundred sixty acres [64.75 hectares] of land and that actively farms or ranches~~  
16          ~~that land or an individual, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability~~  
17          ~~partnership, limited partnership, or partnership that holds title to at least one hundred~~  
18          ~~sixty acres [64.75 hectares] of land is eligible to apply for a license to hunt deer~~  
19          ~~without charge, or if that entity is a nonresident upon payment of the fee requirement~~  
20          ~~for a nonresident big game license, upon filing a signed application describing that~~  
21          ~~land. If the license is issued to a corporation, limited liability company, limited liability~~  
22          ~~partnership, limited partnership, or partnership, only one license may be issued and~~  
23          ~~the license must be issued in the name of an individual shareholder, member, or~~  
24          ~~partner. The land must be within a unit open for the hunting of deer. The license must~~  
25          ~~include a legal description of the eligible land described in the completed application~~  
26          ~~and may be used to hunt deer only upon that land. A license issued under this~~  
27          ~~subsection is valid for the deer bow, deer gun, and muzzleloader seasons until filled.~~  
28          ~~However, an individual, that individual's spouse, and their children who have a license~~  
29          ~~issued under this subsection may hunt together on land described in any of the~~  
30          ~~affidavits making them eligible for the license. Family members hunting together under~~  
31          ~~this provision shall hunt within the same unit within which the land described in the~~

1 affidavit making them eligible for the license is located. Upon request, a lessee shall  
2 provide proof that the land described in the completed application is leased for  
3 agricultural purposes. An individual who is eligible for a license under this subsection  
4 may transfer that eligibility for the license to a spouse or legal dependent residing  
5 customarily with that individual, but no more than one license may be issued under  
6 this subsection for any qualifying land. An individual transferring eligibility under this  
7 subsection may not receive a license under this subsection for the season for which  
8 the eligibility was transferred. If not otherwise specified in an agricultural lease, the  
9 landowner is entitled to receive the license.

- 10 a. An individual, corporation, limited liability company, limited liability partnership,  
11 limited partnership, partnership, trust, or life estate that hold title to at least one  
12 hundred fifty acres [60.70 hectares] of land is eligible to apply for a license to  
13 hunt deer without charge, or if the individual named to receive the license is a  
14 nonresident, upon payment of the fee required for a nonresident big game  
15 license.
- 16 b. A resident that is an individual, corporation, limited liability company, limited  
17 liability partnership, limited partnership, partnership, trust, or life estate that has  
18 executed a lease for at least one hundred fifty acres [60.7028 hectares] of land  
19 and that actively farms or ranches that land is eligible to apply for a license to  
20 hunt deer without charge. Upon request, a lessee shall provide proof the land  
21 described in the completed application is leased for agricultural purposes. If not  
22 otherwise specified in an agricultural lease, the landowner is entitled to receive  
23 the license. An individual issued a license under this subsection must be a  
24 resident.
- 25 c. Applications must include a legal description of the eligible land, must be within a  
26 unit open for the hunting of deer, and must be signed. A license issued under this  
27 subsection is valid for the deer bow, deer gun, and muzzleloader seasons until  
28 filled and only upon the land described in the application.
- 29 d. If the eligible applicant in subsections a and b is a corporation, limited liability  
30 company, limited liability partnership, limited partnership, partnership, trust, or life  
31 estate, only one license may be issued and the license must be issued in the

- 1           name of an individual shareholder, member, partner, beneficiary, or holder of a  
2           life estate.
- 3           e. An individual who is eligible for a license under subsections a and b may transfer  
4           that eligibility for the license to a spouse or legal dependent residing customarily  
5           with that individual. An individual may be eligible for only one license. No more  
6           than one license may be issued under this subsection for all qualifying land. An  
7           individual transferring eligibility under this subsection may not receive a license  
8           under subsections a and b for seasons for which the eligibility was transferred.
- 9           f. An individual, that individual's spouse, and their children who have a license  
10           issued under subsections a and b may hunt together on land described in any of  
11           the applications making them eligible for the license. Family members hunting  
12           together under this provision must hunt within the same unit within which the land  
13           described in the application making them eligible for the license is located.
- 14           g. Applications for license issued under subsections a, b, and f received by the  
15           game and fish department on or before the date of the application deadline for  
16           deer gun lottery will be issued as any legal deer. Applications for license issued  
17           under subsections a, b, and f received by the game and fish department after the  
18           the application deadline will be issued based on licenses available.
- 19           4. One percent of the total deer licenses and permits to hunt deer with guns to be issued  
20           in any unit or subunit as described in the governor's proclamation, including licenses  
21           issued to nonresidents under subsection 3, must be allocated for nonresidents.  
22           Notwithstanding the number of licenses allocated under this subsection, upon  
23           payment of the fee requirement for a nonresident who participates on the same basis  
24           as a resident in a lottery for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for  
25           residents, a nonresident may participate on the same basis as a resident in a lottery  
26           for deer licenses remaining after the second lottery for residents.
- 27           5. A resident who has executed a lease for at least ~~one hundred sixty acres~~ [64.75-  
28           ~~hectares~~]one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land and who actively farms or  
29           ranches that land or a resident who holds title to at least ~~one hundred sixty acres~~-  
30           ~~[64.75 hectares]~~one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land is eligible to apply for  
31           a license to hunt antelope without charge upon filing a signed application describing

1 that land. The land must be within a unit open for the hunting of antelope. The license  
2 must include a legal description of the eligible land described in the completed  
3 application and may be used to hunt antelope only upon that land. Upon request, a  
4 lessee shall provide proof that the land described in the completed application is  
5 leased for agricultural purposes. A resident who is eligible for a license under this  
6 subsection may transfer that eligibility for the license to a spouse or legal dependent  
7 residing customarily with the resident, but no more than one license may be issued  
8 under this subsection for any qualifying land. A resident transferring eligibility under  
9 this subsection may not receive a license under this subsection for the season for  
10 which eligibility was transferred. If not otherwise specified in an agricultural lease, the  
11 landowner is entitled to receive the license. The number of licenses issued without  
12 charge under this subsection may not exceed the total number of licenses prescribed  
13 for each district or unit in the governor's proclamation. If the number of eligible persons  
14 who apply for licenses issued without charge under this subsection exceeds the  
15 number of licenses prescribed for the district or unit in the governor's proclamation  
16 less any licenses that are otherwise designated to be issued with a charge under this  
17 subsection, the licenses to be issued without charge must be issued by lottery as  
18 prescribed in the governor's proclamation. If the number of licenses prescribed for the  
19 district or unit in the governor's proclamation exceeds fifty and if the number of  
20 applications for these licenses exceeds the number of licenses prescribed for the  
21 district or unit in the governor's proclamation, then one-half of the licenses exceeding  
22 fifty must be issued by lottery as prescribed in the governor's proclamation and may  
23 not be issued to landowners without charge.

- 24 6. A person who is unable to step from a vehicle without aid of a wheelchair, crutch,  
25 brace, or other mechanical support or prosthetic device or who is unable to walk any  
26 distance because of a permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease that requires  
27 the person to use supplemental oxygen to assist breathing and who receives or  
28 obtains, whether issued by lottery or otherwise, a license to hunt deer, is entitled to  
29 convert one license to take any sex or species of deer in the unit or subunit for which  
30 the license is issued. Notwithstanding any other law or any provision contained in the  
31 governor's proclamation concerning the hunting of deer, a person who is unable to

1 step from a vehicle without aid of a wheelchair, crutch, brace, or other mechanical  
2 support or prosthetic device or who is unable to walk any distance because of a  
3 permanent lung, heart, or other internal disease that requires the person to use  
4 supplemental oxygen to assist breathing is entitled to apply for a license to hunt deer  
5 regardless of whether that person received a license to hunt deer in any prior year.

- 6 7. A resident who has executed a lease for at least ~~one hundred sixty acres [64.75-~~  
7 ~~hectares]~~one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land and who actively farms or  
8 ranches that land or a resident who holds title to at least ~~one hundred sixty acres-~~  
9 ~~[64.75 hectares]~~one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land is eligible to apply for  
10 a license to hunt elk upon filing a signed application describing that land and payment  
11 of the fee requirement for a resident big game license. The land must be within a unit  
12 open for the hunting of elk. The license must include a legal description of the eligible  
13 land described in the completed application and may be used to hunt elk within the  
14 district or unit in which the land described in the completed application is located.  
15 Upon request, a lessee shall provide proof that the land described in the completed  
16 application is leased for agricultural purposes. A resident who is eligible for a license  
17 under this subsection may transfer that eligibility for the license to a spouse or legal  
18 dependent residing customarily with the resident, but no more than one license may  
19 be issued under this subsection for any qualifying land. If not otherwise specified in an  
20 agricultural lease, the landowner is entitled to receive the license. The governor's  
21 proclamation may restrict the districts or units for which preferential licenses may be  
22 issued under this subsection. The number of licenses issued under this subsection for  
23 each designated district or unit for hunting elk may not exceed fifteen percent of the  
24 total licenses prescribed in the governor's proclamation for each district or unit. If the  
25 number of applications for licenses to be issued under this subsection in a district or  
26 unit exceeds the maximum number of such licenses allocated to that district or unit,  
27 the licenses to be issued must be issued by weighted lottery as prescribed in the  
28 governor's proclamation. Licenses to hunt elk may not be issued under this subsection  
29 when the total number of licenses prescribed in the governor's proclamation is fewer  
30 than twenty. The director may issue special elk depredation management licenses to  
31 landowners in designated areas around Theodore Roosevelt national park upon

1 payment of the fee requirement for a resident big game license. The provisions of this  
2 section governing the number of licenses issued for each designated district or unit for  
3 hunting elk do not apply to special elk depredation management licenses and a person  
4 who receives such a license under this subsection is eligible to apply for a license to  
5 hunt elk in future years and is eligible to participate in the raffle under section  
6 20.1-08-04.6. An individual who has been convicted of illegally taking a moose, elk, or  
7 bighorn sheep is not eligible to apply for or receive a license under this subsection.

- 8 8. A resident who has executed a lease for at least ~~one hundred sixty acres~~ ~~[64.75-~~  
9 ~~hectares]~~ one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land and who actively farms or  
10 ranches that land or a resident who holds title to at least ~~one hundred sixty acres-~~  
11 ~~[64.75 hectares]~~ one hundred fifty acres [60.78 hectares] of land is eligible to apply for  
12 a license to hunt moose without charge upon filing a signed application describing that  
13 land. The land must be within a unit open for the hunting of moose. The license must  
14 include a legal description of the eligible land described in the completed application  
15 and may be used to hunt moose only upon that land. Upon request, a lessee shall  
16 provide proof that the land described in the completed application is leased for  
17 agricultural purposes. A resident who is eligible for a license under this subsection may  
18 transfer that eligibility for the license to a spouse or a legal dependent residing  
19 customarily with the resident, but no more than one license may be issued under this  
20 subsection for any qualifying land. A resident transferring eligibility under this  
21 subsection is not eligible to apply for a license to hunt moose in future years but is  
22 eligible to participate in the raffle under section 20.1-08-04.2. If not otherwise specified  
23 in an agricultural lease, the landowner is entitled to receive the license. The number of  
24 licenses issued under this subsection for a district or unit may not exceed fifteen  
25 percent of the total licenses prescribed in the governor's proclamation for that district  
26 or unit. If the number of eligible persons who apply for a license under this subsection  
27 exceeds the number of licenses available under this subsection, the licenses must be  
28 issued by lottery as prescribed in the governor's proclamation. A person who receives  
29 a license under this subsection and who is successful in harvesting a moose is not  
30 eligible to apply for a license to hunt moose in future years but is eligible to participate  
31 in the raffle under section 20.1-08-04.2. Notwithstanding this subsection, if a person

1 other than the transferee of license eligibility is unsuccessful in harvesting a moose  
2 under this subsection, that person may return the unused license to the department  
3 and is eligible to apply for, but not transfer, an additional license to hunt moose in  
4 future years. A person who receives a second license under this subsection is not  
5 eligible to participate in the raffle under section 20.1-08-04.2. If a person receives a  
6 license under this subsection, the person's spouse, children, and parents living with  
7 the person are not eligible to receive a license under this subsection for the district or  
8 unit in which the land described in the completed application is located, unless the  
9 person has sold or otherwise transferred the person's rights to the land described in  
10 the completed application. The governor's proclamation may restrict the area of land  
11 within a unit open for the hunting of moose for which a preferential license is issued  
12 under this subsection. If the proclamation restricts the area for issuance of preferential  
13 licenses, an applicant must own or lease land within the restricted area to be eligible to  
14 apply for a license to hunt moose upon payment of the fee required for a resident big  
15 game license. The license may be used to hunt moose within the entire unit in which  
16 the land described in the completed application is located. A successful applicant from  
17 a restricted area may not return an unused license to regain eligibility for a license to  
18 hunt moose in future years. An individual who has been convicted of illegally taking a  
19 moose, elk, or bighorn sheep is not eligible to apply for or receive a license under this  
20 subsection.

- 21 9. A person who holds a valid license to hunt deer may hunt the same species and sex of  
22 deer, for which that person's license is valid, on land in an adjoining unit for which that  
23 person would be eligible for a gratis deer license under subsection 3.
- 24 10. Fifteen percent of the total mule deer licenses and permits to hunt mule deer made  
25 available in the immediately preceding year for the regular gun season must be made  
26 available to nonresidents to hunt any deer with bow and arrow.

27 **SECTION 2. EMERGENCY.** This Act is declared to be an emergency measure.