

# MICROFILM DIVIDER

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Date

2003 HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1365

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2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1365

House Natural Resources Committee

Conference Committee

Hearing Date February 13, 2003

Tape Number	Side A	Side B	Meter #
2	xx		468-2864
2	xx		3447-3647
Committee Clerk Signature <i>Emi Myer</i>			

Minutes:

**Chair Nelson** called the hearing on HB 1365 relating to group deer hunting to order.

**Rep. Bernstein:** Introduced HB 1365. I find that a majority of people in the state have been group deer hunting all along. Game and Fish does not say anything. What are we teaching our kids about respecting the law.

**Rep. Aarsvold:** Testified in support as a cosponsor of HB 1365. I think we need a public debate on this.

**Rep. Norland:** Both supporters are from the eastern part of the state. I look at this differently being from the west. Not everyone in the group carries a gun.

**Rep. Aarsvold:** I would agree most do hunt that way.

**Rep. Nottestad:** Everybody does it is not a good reason to change it.

**Rep. Aarsvold:** The question in enforcement. If we are not going to enforce it we should change it.

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House Natural Resources Committee

Bill/Resolution Number 1365

Hearing Date February 13, 2003

**Harold Neameyer:** Cass County Wildlife Club. Testified in support of HB 1365. (See Attached Testimony)

**Rep. Nottestad:** What percentages of bucks taken will be from party hunting? Will it go up?

**Harold Neameyer:** Yes. The biggest question that has come up has been one of ethics.

**Rep. DeKrey:** I introduced this bill as a freshman. What has changed?

**Harold Neameyer:** I really cannot say.

**Rep. Norland:** With this bill I can hunt as many deer as I want rest of the year.

**Mike Donahue:** United Sportsman and North Dakota Wildlife Federation. Testified in opposition to HB 1365. (See Attached Testimony)

**Dennis Daniel:** Opposed to HB 1365. Spoke about slob hunters and how this goes against everything we teach in hunter safety.

**Roger Rosvitt:** North Dakota Game and Fish Department. (See Attached Testimony)

**Rep. Johnson:** How many citations have you given.

**Roger Rosvitt:** Not many.

**Chair Nelson** closes the Hearing on HB 1365.

**Chair Nelson** reopens HB 1365

**Rep. DeKrey** motions a **Do Not Pass** on HB 1365. **Rep. Clark** Seconded the motion.

The motion passed by a vote of 12-1-1. **Rep. Johnson** will carry.

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Date: 2/13/03  
Roll Call Vote #: 1

2003 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE ROLL CALL VOTES  
BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1765

House House Natural Resources Committee

Check here for Conference Committee

Legislative Council Amendment Number \_\_\_\_\_

Action Taken Do Not Pass

Motion Made By DeKrey Seconded By Clark

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Jon O. Nelson		✓			
Vice-Chairman Todd Porter	✓				
Rep. Byron Clark	✓				
Rep. Duane DeKrey	✓				
Rep. David Drovdal	✓				
Rep. Lyle Hanson	✓				
Rep. Bob Hunskor	✓				
Rep. Dennis Johnson	✓				
Rep. George Keiser	✓				
Rep. Scott Kelsh	✓				
Rep. Frank Klein					
Rep. Mike Norland	✓				
Rep. Darrell Nottestad	✓				
Rep. Dorvan Solberg	✓				

Total (Yes) 12 No 1

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Johnson

If the vote is on an amendment, briefly indicate intent:

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Dorvan Solberg  
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10/3/03  
Date

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE (410)  
February 13, 2003 4:01 p.m.

Module No: HR-28-2647  
Carrier: D. Johnson  
Insert LC: . Title: .

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE  
HB 1365: Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Nelson, Chairman) recommends **DO NOT PASS** (12 YEAS, 1 NAY, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING). HB 1365 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

(2) DESK, (3) COMM

Page No. 1

HR-28-2647

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2003 TESTIMONY

HB 1365

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10/3/03  
Date



Cass County  
**WILDLIFE CLUB**

Box 336  
Casselton, ND 58012



**TESTIMONY OF HAROLD NEAMEYER**  
**CASS COUNTY WILDLIFE CLUB**  
PRESENTED TO THE HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEE  
ON HB 1365, FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee:

I am Harold Neameyer speaking on behalf of the Cass County Wildlife Club. The Cass County Wildlife Club supports HB 1365 basically because it's fairly common knowledge that party hunting is and has been going on for a long time.

We talk a lot about deer hunting being a social affair; this allows them to legally fill the tags in the hunting party.

The CCWC strongly encourages hunters to harvest their own deer, however this bill does offer an option.



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"VARIETY IN HUNTING AND FISHING"

100 NORTH BISMARCK EXPRESSWAY BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 58501-5095 PHONE 701-328-6300 FAX 701-328-6352

**HB 1365**  
**HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMITTEE**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2002**

Currently there is no overall shortage of deer or total deer licenses in North Dakota, however buck deer can certainly be considered a limited resource. North Dakota has the highest deer hunting success rate in the upper Midwest, possibly the entire United States.

The concern is that the majority of sportsmen and landowners have a definite preference as to what type deer they want to hunt, that preference is for a buck. In fact when given the choice to take either a buck or a doe, as the current gratis system allows, 75% of gratis license holders harvest a buck. The application rate for the regular lottery confirms this preference as 85% of all lottery applicants' first choice is for a buck. At the present time it is much harder in many units to get a buck license than it is to harvest a buck. Even in whitetail deer units such as 2J1, northeast of Bismarck the average wait for a whitetail buck license is three years, for mule deer buck hunters the is 4-7 years. The lottery system and license allocation system has developed over the years bases on known and relatively stable hunter success numbers. At the present time this balance seems to be working quite well. Party hunting by it nature is intended to increase in the success rate of buck deer hunters and will result in a significantly fewer buck licenses being available. Eliminating a significant portion of the buck licenses available to sportsman certainly will affect this balance.

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To analysis what effects party hunting could have on the availability of buck licenses we can make some conservative assumptions. The number one assumption is that hunter success will go up. The success rates for all buck hunters in 2001 were 77.9%. This is slightly higher than the long-term average. If the success rate for bucks were to go up an average of only 10%, buck licenses would have to be reduced by 12.5% to equal the same harvest of bucks. In relative numbers what would that have meant last year? To compensate for as little as a 10% increase in buck harvest, 5,911 fewer buck tags would have had to be issued to equal the same harvest.

From a management standpoint this law would confront the Department with significant challenges. We would have to withhold an additional number of buck tags from each unit prior to the lottery. Real challenges would be created for the department in the allocation of licenses type and numbers (deer sex and or species) and an overloading of the lottery preference system.

Minnesota Is often held up as a state with a successful party hunting law. Minnesota deer hunting is quiet a different hunting scenario than North Dakota. Because of Minnesota's heavily wooded terrain, low hunter success has been a problem. Even with higher deer populations than North Dakota and party hunting, Minnesota's hunter success rate is about one half of ours (40.6%).

I have only addressed the management considerations: - not the ethical implications - the disadvantages of getting a license for the hunter who wants to hunt alone or shoot his own deer - the increase in nonhunter applications to get licenses for others, and situations of game left behind because of accidental over harvest to mention a few.

For these reasons the North Dakota Game and Fish Department urges a **DO NOT PASS** recommendation on HB 1365.

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