

2019 HOUSE ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

HB 1294

2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE MINUTES

Energy and Natural Resources Committee Coteau Room, State Capitol

HB 1294
1/18/2019
31058

- Subcommittee
 Conference Committee

Committee Clerk: Kathleen Davis

Explanation or reason for introduction of bill/resolution:

a bill relating to duty to check traps and snares; and to provide a penalty

Minutes:

Attachment 1,2,3,4,5,6,7

Chairman Porter: called the hearing to order.

Rep. Mitskog, Dist. 25, Wahpeton: Presented Attachment 1. This bill came via of a constituent in late December. After further research, it seems we have responsible trappers in the state doing good work. The numbers are not there to justify a change in the state law. I request we kill the bill.

Chairman Porter: further testimony in favor? Opposed? Bill sponsor is recommending that it be defeated. Any opposition?

Myron Jepson: Attachment 2

7:35

Scott Evans, Granville, VP of ND Furtakers and member of ND Fur Hunters and Trappers Association: worked for wildlife services for 25 years. Attachment 3

10:00

Sheldon Cieslak, Hazen, ND, president of the ND Fur Takers of America and State Chairman of the United Sportsmen of ND: presented Attachment 4.

Rick Tischaefter, Butte, ND, president of ND Fur Hunters and Trappers Association, Presented Attachment 5.

Rep. Mitskog: commend your group and association for your programs.

Chairman Porter: further testimony in opposition? Closed the hearing.
The chair is open for a motion.

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

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Page 2

Rep. Keiser: I move a Do Not Pass on HB 1294.

Rep. Devlin: Second.

Chairman Porter: Discussion on a Do Not Pass on HB 1294?

Clerk took roll. 13 yes 0 no 1 absent. Rep. Mitskog is carrier.

Attachment 6 from Peter M. Lorge

Attachment 7 from An Ethical ND Trapper

Date: 1-18-19
 Roll Call Vote #: 1

**2019 HOUSE STANDING COMMITTEE
 ROLL CALL VOTES
 BILL/RESOLUTION NO. 1294**

House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Subcommittee

Amendment LC# or Description: _____

- Recommendation: Adopt Amendment
 Do Pass Do Not Pass Without Committee Recommendation
 As Amended Rerefer to Appropriations
 Place on Consent Calendar
 Other Actions: Reconsider _____

Motion Made By Rep Keiser Seconded By Rep Devlin

Representatives	Yes	No	Representatives	Yes	No
Chairman Porter	✓		Rep. Lefor	✓	
Vice Chairman Damschen	✓		Rep. Marschall	✓	
Rep. Anderson	AB		Rep. Roers Jones	✓	
Rep Bosch	✓		Rep. Ruby	✓	
Rep. Devlin	✓		Rep. Zubke	✓	
Rep. Heinert	✓				
Rep. Keiser	✓		Rep. Mitskog	✓	
			Rep. Eidson	✓	

Total (Yes) 13 No 0

Absent 1

Floor Assignment Rep Mitskog

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

REPORT OF STANDING COMMITTEE

HB 1294: Energy and Natural Resources Committee (Rep. Porter, Chairman)
recommends **DO NOT PASS** (13 YEAS, 0 NAYS, 1 ABSENT AND NOT VOTING).
HB 1294 was placed on the Eleventh order on the calendar.

2019 TESTIMONY

HB 1294

**House Bill 1294 Testimony
Rep. Alisa Mitskog D-25
Energy and Natural Resources
Rep. Todd Porter, Chairman
January 18, 2019**

Good Morning Chairman Porter and Committee Members,

For the record, my name is Alisa Mitskog, I represent District 25-Wahpeton. House bill 1294 came to me in late December at the request of a constituent who is a trapper. He reported having concerns about traps not being checked in a timely manner and had related to finding snares that had not been checked for a week.

He had suggested a 48hr trap check law.

After dropping the bill, I dug into the issue further and found the following information:

North Dakota is one of three states that does not have a trap check law, Montana and Alaska being the other states. North Dakota does have trap check recommendations issued by ND Game and Fish in cooperation with the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association. They recommend that all traps be visually inspected and captured animals be removed at no greater intervals than 48 hour intervals.

In my review of information regarding trapping and snaring in North Dakota, I spoke with North Dakota Game and Fish.

They reported having only 5 reportable incidents regarding traps in the 2018.

I also had the opportunity to visit with a North Dakota game warden.

He related to recently taking 2 calls on illegal snares that were not checked in a timely manner. The only other issue he talked about was the occasional dog being caught in snares. He says that he always recommends that bird hunters carry cutters to aid in getting the dogs out of the snares. This information is also published in the Game and Fish Hunting and Trapping Guide.

I found another valuable source of information in the Cooperative Fur Harvester Education Program Manual produced by the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association. It appears that good cooperation exists between ND Game and Fish and the trappers in the state.

Furthermore, with the limited numbers of complaints or incidents, a change in state law, in my opinion is not necessary at this time.

Again, the timeline surrounding this bill has been short. After reviewing the information and talking with numerous individuals, I think we should not proceed with any changes.

Thank you for your time.

Table 1: General Trap Check Intervals by State for Live Sets*

	INTERVAL:	BY STATUTE/REGULATION:
ALABAMA	24 hours ⁱ	<u>ALA. CODE § 9-11-266</u>
ALASKA	None	N/A
ARIZONA	Daily	<u>ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE § 12-4-307(G)(1)</u>
ARKANSAS	Daily	<u>002-00-001 ARK. CODE R. §17.02</u>
CALIFORNIA	Daily	<u>CAL. CODE REGS. tit. 14, § 465.5(g)(2)</u>
COLORADO	Daily ⁱⁱ	<u>COLO. CODE REGS. § 406-3 #302(B)(2)</u>
CONNECTICUT	24 hours	<u>CONN. GEN. STAT. § 26-72</u>
DELAWARE	24 hours ⁱⁱⁱ	<u>DEL. CODE tit. 7, § 705</u>
FLORIDA	24 hours	<u>FLA. ADMIN. CODE r. 68A-24.002(1)</u>
GEORGIA	24 hours	<u>GA. CODE § 27-3-63(a)(3)</u>
HAWAII	No furbearer trapping	<u>HAW. ADMIN. CODE § 13-123-22</u>
IDAHO	72 hours ^{iv}	<u>IDAHO ADMIN. CODE § 13.01.16.200.01</u>
ILLINOIS	Daily	<u>520 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/2.33a</u>
INDIANA	24 hours	<u>IND. CODE § 14-22-6-4</u>
IOWA	24 hours	<u>IOWA CODE § 481A.92</u>
KANSAS	Daily	<u>KAN. ADMIN. REGS. § 115-6-5(c)(13)</u>
KENTUCKY	24 hours	<u>KY. REV. STAT. § 150.410(2)</u>
LOUISIANA	Daily	<u>LA. REV. STAT. § 56:260(A)</u>
MAINE	Daily	<u>ME. REV. STAT. tit. 12, § 12255(1)</u>
MARYLAND	Daily ^v	<u>MD. CODE REGS. 08.03.06.03(E)</u>
MASSACHUSETTS	Daily	<u>321 MASS. CODE REGS. 3.02(e)(11)</u>
MICHIGAN	Daily ^{vi}	<u>Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 3.600(12)(a)</u>
MINNESOTA	Daily	<u>MINN. R. 6234.2200</u>
MISSISSIPPI	36 hours	<u>MISS. CODE ANN. § 49-7-13(4)(d)</u>
MISSOURI	Daily	<u>MO. CODE REGS. tit. 3, § 10-8.510(2)</u>
MONTANA	None	N/A
NEBRASKA	Daily	<u>163 NEB. ADMIN. CODE § 4-001.03A1</u>
NEVADA	96 hours ^{vii}	<u>NEV. ADMIN. CODE § 503.570(3)</u>
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Daily	<u>N.H. REV. STAT. § 210:13</u>
NEW JERSEY	24 hours	<u>N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 7:25-5.12(i)</u>
NEW MEXICO	Daily	<u>N.M. CODE R. § 19.32.2.11(A)</u>
NEW YORK	24 hours ^{viii}	<u>N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 6, § 6.3(a)(3)</u>
NORTH CAROLINA	Daily	<u>15A N.C. ADMIN. CODE 10B.0110</u>
NORTH DAKOTA	None	N/A
OHIO	Daily	<u>OHIO ADMIN. CODE 1501:31-15-09(G)</u>
OKLAHOMA	24 hours	<u>OKLA. STAT. tit. 29, §5-502(C)</u>
OREGON	48 hours ^{ix}	<u>OR. REV. STAT. § 498.172(1)</u>
PENNSYLVANIA	36 hours	<u>34 PA. CONS. STAT. § 2361(a)(10)</u>
RHODE ISLAND	24 hours	<u>20 R.I. GEN. LAWS § 20-16-9</u>

SOUTH CAROLINA	Daily	<u>S.C. Code § 50-11-2440</u>
SOUTH DAKOTA	72 hours ^x	<u>S.D. Admin. R. 41:08:02:03</u>
TENNESSEE	36 hours ¹⁸	<u>TENN. CODE § 70-4-120(a)(1)(C)</u>
TEXAS	36 hours	<u>31 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 65.375(c)(2)(E)</u>
UTAH	48 hours	<u>UTAH ADMIN. CODE r. 657-11-9(12)</u>
VERMONT	Daily	<u>Vt. Admin. Code 16-4-137:4.1</u>
VIRGINIA	Daily	<u>4 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 15-40-195</u>
WASHINGTON	24 hours	<u>WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-417-030(4)(c)</u>
WEST VIRGINIA	Daily	<u>W. VA. CODE R. § 58-53-3.3</u>
WISCONSIN	Daily	<u>WIS. ADMIN. CODE NR § 10.13(2)</u>
WYOMING	72 hours ^{xi}	<u>040-0001-4 WYO. CODE R. § 9(a)</u>

* "Live sets" are traps or snares intended to capture the animal alive.

Table 2: General Trap Check Intervals by State for Kill Sets**

	INTERVAL:	BY STATUTE/REGULATION:
ALABAMA	24 hours ¹	<u>ALA. CODE § 9-11-266</u>
ALASKA	None	N/A
ARIZONA	Daily	<u>ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE § 12-4-307(G)(1)</u>
ARKANSAS	72 hours	<u>002-00-001 ARK. CODE R. §17.02</u>
CALIFORNIA	Daily	<u>CAL. CODE REGS. tit. 14, § 465.5(g)(2)</u>
COLORADO	Daily ²	<u>COLO. CODE REGS. § 406-3 #302(B)(2)</u>
CONNECTICUT	24 hours	<u>CONN. GEN. STAT. § 26-72</u>
DELAWARE	24 hours ³	<u>DEL. CODE tit. 7, § 705</u>
FLORIDA	24 hours ^{xii}	<u>FLA. ADMIN. CODE r. 68A-24.002(1)</u>
GEORGIA	24 hours	<u>GA. CODE § 27-3-63(a)(3)</u>
HAWAII	No furbearer trapping	<u>HAW. ADMIN. CODE § 13-123-22</u>
IDAHO	72 hours ⁴	<u>IDAHO ADMIN. CODE § 13.01.16.200.01</u>
ILLINOIS	Daily	<u>520 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/2.33a</u>
INDIANA	24 hours	<u>IND. CODE § 14-22-6-4</u>
IOWA	24 hours ^{xiii}	<u>IOWA CODE § 481A.92</u>
KANSAS	Daily	<u>KAN. ADMIN. REGS. § 115-6-5(c)(13)</u>
KENTUCKY	24 hours	<u>KY. REV. STAT. § 150.410(2)</u>
LOUISIANA	Daily	<u>LA. REV. STAT. § 56:260</u>
MAINE	Daily ^{xiv}	<u>ME. REV. STAT. tit. 12, § 12255(1)</u>
MARYLAND	Daily ⁵	<u>MD. CODE REGS. 08.03.06.03(E)</u>
MASSACHUSETTS	Daily	<u>321 MASS. CODE REGS. 3.02(e)(11)</u>
MICHIGAN	None	<u>Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 3.600(12)(a)</u>
MINNESOTA	Every three days	<u>MINN. R. 6234.2200</u>
MISSISSIPPI	36 hours	<u>MISS. CODE ANN. § 49-7-13(4)(d)</u>
MISSOURI	48 hours	<u>MO. CODE REGS. tit. 3, § 10-8.510(2)</u>
MONTANA	None	N/A
NEBRASKA	Every two days	<u>163 NEB. ADMIN. CODE § 4-001.03A1</u>
NEVADA	96 hours ⁷	<u>NEV. ADMIN. CODE § 503.152</u>
NEW HAMPSHIRE	Daily ^{xv}	<u>N.H. REV. STAT. § 210:13</u>
NEW JERSEY	24 hours	<u>N.J. ADMIN. CODE § 7:25-5.12(i)</u>
NEW MEXICO	Daily	<u>N.M. CODE R. § 19.32.2.11(A)</u>
NEW YORK	24 hours ⁸	<u>N.Y. COMP. CODES R. & REGS. tit. 6, § 6.3(a)(3)</u>
NORTH CAROLINA	Daily ^{xvi}	<u>15A N.C. ADMIN. CODE 10B.011 0</u>
NORTH DAKOTA	None	N/A
OHIO	Daily	<u>OHIO ADMIN. CODE 1501:31-15-09(G)</u>
OKLAHOMA	24 hours	<u>OKLA. STAT. tit. 29, §5-502(C)</u>
OREGON	48 hours ⁹	<u>OR. REV. STAT. § 498.172</u>
PENNSYLVANIA	36 hours	<u>34 PA. CONS. STAT. § 2361(a)(10)</u>
RHODE ISLAND	24 hours	<u>20 R.I. GEN. LAWS § 20-16-9</u>

SOUTH CAROLINA	Daily ^{xvii}	<u>S.C. CODE § 50-11-2440</u>
SOUTH DAKOTA	72 hours ¹⁰	<u>S.D. ADMIN. R. 41:08:02:03</u>
TENNESSEE	36 hours ^{xviii}	<u>TENN. CODE § 70-4-120(a)(1)(C)</u>
TEXAS	36 hours	<u>31 TEX. ADMIN. CODE § 65.375(c)(2)(E)</u>
UTAH	96 hours ^{xix}	<u>UTAH ADMIN. CODE r. 657-11-9(12)(a)-(c)</u>
VERMONT	Daily ¹³	<u>Vt. Admin. Code 16-4-137:4.1</u>
VIRGINIA	Daily ^{xx}	<u>4 VA. ADMIN. CODE § 15-40-195</u>
WASHINGTON	72 hours	<u>WASH. ADMIN. CODE § 220-417-030(4)(c)</u>
WEST VIRGINIA	Daily	<u>W. VA. CODE R. § 58-53-3.3</u>
WISCONSIN	Daily	<u>WIS. ADMIN. CODE NR § 10.13(3)(a)</u>
WYOMING	Weekly ¹¹	<u>040-0001-4 WYO. CODE R. § 9(a)</u>

** “Kill sets” are traps or snares intended to kill the animal instantly or by asphyxiation or drowning.

ⁱ 72 hours for water sets.

ⁱⁱ Most sets are constitutionally prohibited in Colorado. See COLO. CONST. art. XVIII, § 12b. An exemption from the constitutional prohibition and the normal trap check requirements is granted to persons on their own land primarily used for commercial agriculture, to protect that agriculture. See *id.*; COLO. REV. STAT. § 33-6-207.

ⁱⁱⁱ Muskrat traps exempted.

^{iv} “Unprotected rodents” exempted; in effect, all rodents except for beavers. Compare IDAHO ADMIN. CODE § 13.01.16.010.01 with *id.* § 13.01.16.010.03 (definitions of “furbearing animals” and “unprotected wildlife”).

^v Every two days for water sets.

^{vi} Except: 1) in Michigan’s Upper Peninsula (“Zone 1”), where the interval is 48 hours; and 2) for licensed trappers using multi-animal cage sets, for whom there is no requirement. See Mich. Wildlife Conservation Order § 1.2(21) – (23) for the definitions of Zones 1, 2, and 3.

^{vii} Generally, some units require an interval of every other day for some sets.

^{viii} 48 hours for some wildlife management units (“WMU”), 48 hours for some sets in other WMUs.

^{ix} Predator trapping exempted, though must still be checked “on a regular basis.”

^x 96 hours if west of the Missouri River.

^{xi} Snares and quick-kill body traps exempted. These must be checked once each calendar week except for the first week in which the trap was set.

^{xii} Only snares allowed.

^{xiii} Drowning sets exempted.

^{xiv} Drowning sets every three days, or every five days in unincorporated/unorganized areas; sets under ice set for beaver or muskrat exempted.

^{xv} Except sets for beaver under ice, then every three days.

^{xvi} Except for drowning set Conibears, then 72 hours.

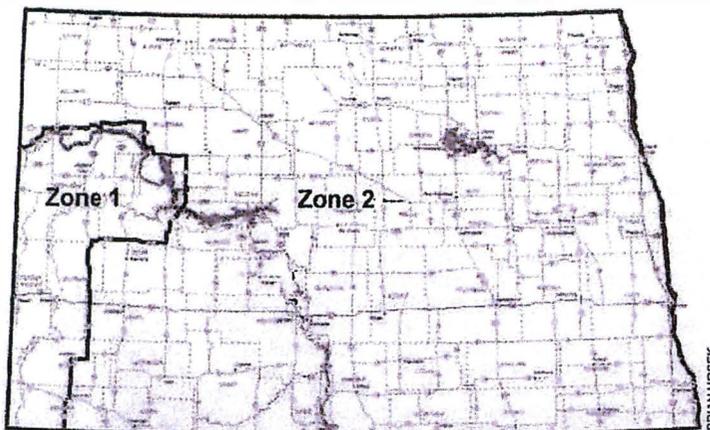
^{xvii} 48 hours for drowning sets.

^{xviii} This statute is repealed as of July 1, 2017. Trap check times will be set by the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency and included in the hunting and trapping season guidebook. The guidebook for 2017-18 has not yet been published.

^{xix} Except for lethal snares without a relaxing lock or stop set to an immovable object, which have a 96 hour requirement.

^{xx} Drowning set Conibears exempted.

MOUNTAIN LION MANAGEMENT ZONES



MOUNTAIN LION

Mountain lions may only be hunted by North Dakota residents. The limit for mountain lions is one animal per hunter per season. Any mountain lion, other than kittens (kitten is defined as a mountain lion with visible spots) or females accompanied by kittens, may be harvested during the season. Any mountain lion that is harvested must be reported to the Department within 12 hours and the entire intact animal must be submitted for analysis and tagging. Legally taken animals will be returned to the hunter following analysis so that the pelt may be removed but the carcass shall remain the property of the Department. The use of traps or cable devices (snares) to take mountain lions is prohibited. The state will be split into two management zones; Zone 1 and Zone 2. Zone 1 includes land south of ND Highway 1804 from the Montana border to the point where ND Highway 1804 lies directly across Lake Sakakawea from ND Highway 8, crossing Lake Sakakawea then south along ND Highway 8 to ND Highway 200, then west on ND Highway 200 to U.S. Highway 85, then south on U.S. Highway 85 to the South Dakota border. Zone 2 is the remainder of the state not described as Zone 1. Each Zone 1 season will have harvest limits. Once these harvest limits are reached, each respective season will close immediately. The Department will inform the public of each closure through press releases, public service announcements and media contacts. Mountain lions taken by USDA Wildlife Services, the Department, private landowners in defense of livestock, road-killed animals, mountain lions incidentally taken by traps or cable devices, animals taken for human safety issues and those taken on Indian land will not count against any harvest limit.

Zone 1 early-season – Opens: August 31 – Closes: November 25

Mountain lions may be harvested using legal firearms and archery equipment. Harvest may be no more than 8 mountain lions.

Zone 1 late-season – Opens: November 26 – Closes: March 31

Mountain lions may be harvested using legal firearms, archery equipment, and pursuing with dogs. Harvest may be no more than 7 mountain lions or 3 female mountain lions, whichever comes first.

Zone 1 conditional season –

If the harvest limit for the early season is not reached prior to November 25, and after the late season has been closed (due to quota reached) for 5 consecutive days, the early season will reopen until the Zone 1 early season harvest limit is reached or until March 31. If the late season closes after March 25, there will not be a Zone 1 conditional season.

Zone 2 – Opens: August 31 – Closes: March 31

Mountain lions may be harvested using legal firearms and archery equipment. Beginning November 26, mountain lions may also be harvested by pursuing with dogs. There is no overall harvest limit for Zone 2, but individuals are still limited to one lion per season.

RIVER OTTER

Traps, cable devices – Opens: November 26 – Closes: March 15

River otter may only be harvested by North Dakota residents. The limit is one river otter per trapper per season. River otters may be harvested statewide. Any river otter that is harvested must be reported to the Department within 12 hours to make arrangements to have the river otter tagged. The pelt must be removed from the carcass prior to presenting the river otter to Department personnel for tagging. No river otter pelt will be tagged until the animal is skinned and presented with the intact carcass. The carcass shall remain property of the Department. No person, taxidermist or fur dealer shall possess or purchase an untagged river otter. When any part of the animal is mounted, if the tag is removed from the pelt, the tag must be securely fastened to the back or bottom of mount. There is a statewide harvest limit of 15 river otters. Once the harvest limit of 15 river otters is reached, the season will close immediately. The Department will inform the public of this closure through the media. The harvest limit will not include river otters accidentally caught outside of established season dates or by Wildlife Services, the Department, private landowners in defense of livestock or personal property, road-killed, or those harvested on Indian Lands. River otters incidentally trapped after the close of the season must be reported to the Department within 12 hours and turned over to the Department.

WEASEL

Traps – Opens: October 27 – Closes: March 15

Weasel may be trapped statewide using legal traps.

Firearms, cable devices, archery equipment – Opens: November 26 – Closes: March 15

Weasel may be hunted statewide with rimfire cartridges of .22 caliber or smaller, muzzleloaders of .45 caliber or smaller, or legal archery equipment. Weasel may be captured statewide using legal cable devices.

The North Dakota Game and Fish Department, along with the North Dakota Fur Hunters and Trappers Association, recommends that all traps be visually inspected and all captured animals be removed at no greater than 48-hour intervals, and that rubber gloves be worn for skinning and handling of all furbearers.

House Bill 1294

Good Morning. Mr. Chairman, members of this house committee. My name is Myron Jepson and I stand before you as a wildlife trapper, livestock producer and an individual in opposition of House bill 1294

As written this bill first and foremost remification would be a great reduction in the numbers of coyotes harvested in North Dakota. Nobody would benefit from a reduction in predator harvesting.

This bill would destroy any flexibility to access coyotes of any real number. Many professional and hobbyist wildlife trappers set lines in many directions over a few days and check their sets over the same amount of days. This allows access to more territory and of course then access to more animals.

Most trappers rely on the economic gain to pursue this activity. If the economic gain is limited to what is accessible in a 24 hour period most would discontinue this activity and purse another that has more return.

The last thing that is needed in our area is a reduction in the harvesting of predetors.

1. The first problem with the reduction in coyote harvest is the economic impact to the livestock producer. I do not keep personal numbers on the losses due to coyotes but to say the least it is significant and I would assume to other producers such as sheep it has an even larger impact.
2. Another problem is rampant diseases caused by overpopulation. We have witnessed this in the past as well. To witness this is to understand that it is

much more humane to harvest these animals than to watch them suffer such cruelty.

3. Another major impact to the overpopulation of predators such as coyotes, is the impact that they have on game birds such as sharptail grouse, pheasants, rabbits and other game species.

Of course there are other methods of taking of predators such as calling and shooting. It should be noted however than given an equal skill set, and equal amount of time, trapping and snaring captures 3 to 5 times as many animals as calling and shooting.

If this bill were to pass in its current form or in reality any amended version I would be certain that it would not be very long before our wildlife control agencies would be flooded with calls for control of predators. With this comes additional financial burden on those agencies and of course the tax payer. As it is our rules and regulation have allowed a working environment in which the wildlife trappers do a fantastic job of predator control as well as provide a service to the livestock producer as well as the wild game hunters which both provide an enormous economic impact to this state.

In conclusion I hope this testimony has shed light on the consequences of this bill to the trappers and then consequently to hunters and livestock producers and urge you to vote no on House Bill 1294.

If you have any questions I would be more than happy to answer them.

Good morning everyone,

My name is Scott Evens, I live by Granville, ND. I am vice president of the ND fur takers and a member of ND fur hunters and trapper's association. I come here to testify against HB 1294 the 48 hour trap check proposal. My angle against this proposed bill is my experience with trap check laws. Until thirty years ago I lived in MN. An over exaggerated MN DNR located in St. Paul used their power to implement first seventy-two-hour check, then forty-eight, then thirty-six-hour check and then finally a 24-hour check. This mandatory check made it almost impossible to legally run any kind of a trapline effectively. I was sure glad as employment opportunity brought me to North Dakota. A mandatory trap check does not take into account all the variables circumstances that a trapper may encounter, such as illness, injuries, family matters, weather conditions, appointments, vehicle breakdowns, employment requirements, and whole host of other reasons. I leave you with this sinaro, say there is a mandator check law, one of you has snares set in a coulee south of Bismarck, you didn't have a chance to check yesterday or tonight, you will try to check tomorrow, your truck won't start. You are in violation. Thank You for the opportunity to speak.

HB 1294 48 hour trap check

I would oppose any mandatory trap check law.

Under most scenarios traps and snares are set to produce a quick dispatch.

The exception would be trapping on land. This method is mostly used for about a month. Late October to Late November. Trappers go hard during this time frame getting the animals removed from traps before being discovered by a unscrupulous person.

Worst case scenario, what happens if a blizzard hits, pickup breakdown, illness, injury or worse happens?

I am curious what brought this bill about? I have not heard of any situations.

Something I haven't mentioned is I am currently the President of the North Dakota Fur Takers of America and the State Chairman of the United Sportsmen of North Dakota.

Both of these groups oppose this bill but I am currently speaking on my own behalf.

Thank you very much for your time and if you have any questions or comments please let me know.

Sincerely,
Sheldon Cieslak.

**North Dakota Fur Hunters
and Trappers Association**



Preserving our Heritage – Securing our Future

**North Dakota Fur Hunters
And
Trappers Association**

HB 1294

1.18.19

Attachment 5

January 16, 2019

OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

RICK TISCHAEFER

P.O. Box 334
Butte, ND 58723
701-626-7150
tischrc@ndak.net

VICE PRESIDENT

GLEN BALTRUSCH

312 Alder Street
Harvey, ND 58341
701-341-1261

SECRETARY

TROY RADTKE

306 3rd Avenue
Sherwood, ND 58782
701-695-0558

Representative Todd Porter
House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

Representative Porter,

Our association and the fur hunting and trapping community are asking that you not support House Bill 1294. We simply do not have the documented incidents that would warrant any trap check requirement. We have system in place for reporting, documenting, conducting an annual and formal review, the willingness to act on any problems, and we're proactive with our education efforts and materials.

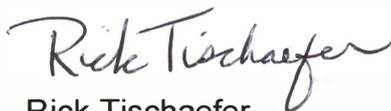
We are very proactive and use our education program to provide many public education materials. Our education program is the best in the nation and I believe our proactive education efforts are the main reason for the lack of trap incidents. All of our education materials are available to everyone from the Game and Fish website.

When incidents occur, they need to be reported to the local warden. They have an incident reporting system that documents the facts and circumstances of the incident. It is those reports that get reviewed every spring so we have an idea of what type of activity needs our attention. The facts and circumstances of any incident are unknown if not reported.

North Dakota Game and Fish Department has management authority for our furbearers. They make sure trapping only occurs for those species which are abundant in their respective habitats; that regulations are science based and enforced by trained conservation wardens; and they continually review and develop rules, regulations, and capture methods that consider animal welfare.

It is my hope that you can support our efforts with a "do not pass" recommendation. If there is anything you need me to do or you have any questions, please let me know. Thank you for your service to North Dakota.

Respectfully Submitted,



Rick Tischaefer
President

Testimony for Energy and Natural Resources Committee
January 18, 2019

Peter Michael Lorge
104 Lake Street East
Zap, ND 58580

House Bill 1294 - Duty To Check Traps And Snares.

Greetings Energy and Natural Resources Committee. My name is Peter Michael Lorge. I am a Trapper and a Snareman. I am a member of the North Dakota Fur Takers.

I Strongly Oppose this bill as it is not in the best interest for Trappers, Snaremen, Farmers, Ranchers, and Rural Communitys, as well as for the economy of North Dakota and the People within.

I as a Trapper and Snareman, spend 1500 hours afield each year harvesting predators with both traps and snares responsibly. This Bill would limit and or prevent me from doing such. Many unknown variables would put myself in violation of such law, to include weather and health.

The State of North Dakota has a strong need for people like myself harvesting predators to control diseases carried by predators. These diseases are to include but not limited to; Rabies, Bubonic Plague, Parvovirus Distemper, Echinococcus Multicularis, Mange, and Leptospirosis.

The need for Trappers and Snaremen to keep predators in check is needed. Without us Livestock and Wildlife suffer. This as well gives others the opportunity to enjoy Deer, Antelope, and Bird hunting.

Predator Damage, Anually, Nation-Wide to Livestock and Wildlife is in the millions of dollars.

I ask for the Committee to Oppose this bill.

Thank You for your time,

Peter Michael Lorge

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House Energy and Natural Resources Committee

January 18, 2019

Chairman Porter and Members of the Committee,

I'm a trapper in North Dakota and would like to see a time limit on checking a person's trapline.

In my experience of trapping in ND in the last 10 years I have seen fellow trappers leaving their trap lines unchecked for weeks at a time . They are being very unethical by any standards. I have been told that if I release non target animals or dispatch targeted animals in someone else's trap I can get a hefty fine. When a animal has to endure being held in a leg trap or a bad catch in a snare starving or dying from water head from a snare is VERY unethical to me. I have witnessed deer, domestic dogs, fox and coyotes caught by snares and unchecked for a week. The animal caught right it is killed quickly but if it is caught foul it can take days to die. Foul caught deer usually get eaten alive until they die. Foul caught dogs can last 2-4 days suffering of water head before they die.

Other examples that I have seen are deer caught by the leg and left there until coyotes find it and the trapper just leaves it and sets up more snares around it until it dies, or coyotes get it. Coyotes caught in snare around neck with front leg in cinch and it slowly suffocates or develops water head. Coyotes caught by the body because loops are too big, deer caught around neck because they are set to high.

I know of 2 individuals that work all week and check traps on weekends or if they go fishing than it's every other weekend that they check their traps.

I hope a 48hr check law can be put into effect immediately with a penalty of loss of hunting/trapping for at least a year for first offense and a severance for each animal found in each unchecked trap/snare.

I'm concerned about signing my name due to possible retaliation.

Signed,

An Ethical North Dakota Trapper.