



State of Wisconsin
2017 - 2018 LEGISLATURE

LRB-1003/1
EHS:kjf

2017 ASSEMBLY BILL 323

May 16, 2017 - Introduced by Representatives JACQUE, KLEEFISCH, BRANDTJEN, E. BROOKS, EDMING, HORLACHER, MURPHY, TITTL and WICHGERS, cosponsored by Senators TIFFANY, MARKLEIN and STROEBEL. Referred to Committee on Natural Resources and Sporting Heritage.

AUTHORS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

1 **AN ACT** *to amend* 29.001 (30) and 29.001 (36); and *to create* 29.192 (6) of the
2 statutes; **relating to:** requiring an open season for woodchucks.

Analysis by the Legislative Reference Bureau

The Department of Natural Resources currently, by rule, prohibits hunting and trapping woodchucks without DNR's authorization by designating the woodchuck as a "protected wild animal."

Under this bill, a woodchuck is defined as a "game animal" and as a "fur-bearing animal." As a result, a person may hunt woodchucks under the authority of a small game hunting license and trap woodchucks under a trapping license. Also under this bill, DNR is required to establish an open season for woodchucks that begins on July 1 of each year and ends on the following December 31. DNR may not impose a bag or possession limit for this season.

The people of the state of Wisconsin, represented in senate and assembly, do enact as follows:

3 **SECTION 1.** 29.001 (30) of the statutes is amended to read:
4 29.001 (30) "Fur-bearing ~~animals~~ animal" includes otter, beaver, mink,
5 muskrat, woodchuck, marten, fisher, skunk, raccoon, fox, weasel, opossum, badger,
6 wolf, coyote, bobcat, cougar, and lynx.

