Bill No.: HB-5304  
Title: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PINK BLAZE CLOTHING FOR HUNTING.  
Vote Date: 3/8/2019  
Vote Action: Joint Favorable  
PH Date: 3/1/2019  
File No.: 171

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SPONSORS OF BILL:
Rep. Anne Dauphinais, 44th Dist.  
Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

REASONS FOR BILL:
Although fluorescent orange has been the standard color required for hunters, sporting goods manufacturers have begun producing fluorescent pink hunting attire. To ensure hunter safety, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection currently requires that at least four hundred square inches of fluorescent orange clothing be visible above the waist during certain hunting seasons; however, a study conducted by the University of Wisconsin concludes that fluorescent pink hunting attire is just as visible, or more visible in some instances, than fluorescent orange. Proponents of the bill have shared testimony believing that allowing fluorescent pink will attract more women to gaming sports.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:
Katie S. Dykes, Commissioner, Energy & Environmental Protection: Supports the bill.  
Allowing fluorescent pink hunting gear will offer hunters more choices for hunting gear without sacrificing safety. Although fluorescent orange has been the required color, sporting goods manufacturers are now producing hunting attire in fluorescent pink. Furthermore, a study conducted by a textile expert from the University of Wisconsin concluded that fluorescent pink is just as visible as fluorescent orange, and sometimes more visible during the autumn. Finally, other states, such as New York, Colorado, Virginia, Minnesota, Illinois, Louisiana, and Wisconsin, have added fluorescent pink as a choice for hunters.
NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Brian Mongeau, Animal Evictions LLC.: Safety is of primary importance to hunters, the color pink is just as visible as orange and may attract women to the sport.

Michael Salter: Shared personal testimony as a sportsman. This bill is an initiative to keep sportsmen safe in the woods. The state Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Minnesota, and Colorado have already passed legislation allowing for the use of pink blaze for hunting. Testimony also recommended the inclusion of lime green to the bill.

Bruce Tolhurst: A study by Dr. Majid Sarmadi of the University of Wisconsin concluded that a spectrometric analysis of blaze pink had similar visibility to most blaze orange. Additionally, similar legislation has been adopted Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York, Louisiana, Colorado, Virginia, and Illinois. Finally, this bill will help recruit female hunters.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Brensilver: The state of Connecticut should not “cater to the interests of the most violent among us.”

Reported by: Pamela Bianca / Ussawin R. Bumpen 3/31/2019