

Environment Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-5102

Title: AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE USE OF PINK BLAZE CLOTHING FOR HUNTING.

Vote Date: 2/28/2020

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/21/2020

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Environment Committee

Rep. Doug Dubitsky, 47th Dist.

Rep. Craig C. Fishbein, 90th Dist.

Rep. Mike France, 42nd 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:

None Expressed.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

Craig C. Fishbein, State Representative, 90th Assembly District: The intent of the bill is not solely for the purpose of expanding color choices, but is intended to reduce hunting accidents. A study conducted by Processor Majid Sarmadi of the University of Wisconsin, pink clothing is visually easier to detect than orange colors in the fall. Testimony also included a summary of Dr. Sarmadi's study.

Jason Levy: Other states including Illinois, Wisconsin, New York, Minnesota and Colorado have passed legislation allowing for the use of blaze pink for hunting. The bill should be amended to include highly visible lime green as a color option.

Bruce Tolhurst: Shared personal testimony stating that this bill has no down-sides, and "offers a very positive alternative that maintains all the elements of safe hunting practice." Cited Dr. Majid Sarmadi's research, University of Wisconsin, regarding the safety implications of pink blaze for hunters.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

David Brensilver: Animals deserve to live free from fear and harm in their natural habitats. The state should not "introduce a new killing costume color."

Reported by: George Peavy / Ussawin R. Bumpen Date: 3/3/2020