

House Bill 2049

Introduced and printed pursuant to House Rule 12.00. Pre-session filed (at the request of former Representative Bob Jenson)

SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Authorizes certain hunters to use battery-powered scoping devices, pin sight lights and laser sighting devices to hunt. Allows person to accompany visually impaired hunter to assist with hunting activities under certain circumstances.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

1
2 Relating to visually impaired hunters; creating new provisions; and amending ORS 498.142 and
3 498.170.

4 **Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:**

5 **SECTION 1.** ORS 498.142 is amended to read:

6 498.142. (1) Except as provided in [*subsection (2)*] **subsections (2) and (3)** of this section, [*no*
7 *person shall*] **a person may not** hunt wildlife with the aid of any artificial light.

8 (2) The State Fish and Wildlife Commission, by rule, may authorize hunting with the aid of an
9 artificial light for the purpose of taking raccoon, opossum or bobcat or to alleviate damage by
10 wildlife to other resources.

11 **(3) A person who possesses a visually impaired hunter license may:**

12 **(a) Use a battery-powered scoping device that projects a light or dot inside the scoping**
13 **device on a firearm when hunting.**

14 **(b) Use a pin sight light on a bow when hunting.**

15 **(c) If accompanied by a person described in ORS 498.170 (1) and (2), use a laser sighting**
16 **device on a bow or on a firearm when hunting.**

17 **SECTION 2.** ORS 498.170 is added to and made a part of ORS chapter 498.

18 **SECTION 3.** ORS 498.170 is amended to read:

19 498.170. (1) A person who does not have a visual impairment and who accompanies a hunter who
20 possesses a visually impaired hunter license may:

21 (a) Assist the hunter in selecting a game animal or bird;

22 (b) Assist the aiming or sighting of a firearm **or a bow and arrow**;

23 (c) Advise the hunter when to fire a firearm **or shoot a bow and arrow**;

24 (d) Shoot a game animal or bird on behalf of the hunter while in the immediate presence of the
25 hunter; and

26 (e) Tag and retrieve game animals and birds on behalf of the hunter.

27 (2)(a) The person accompanying a hunter who has a visual impairment [*shall be required to*
28 *possess a valid hunting license.*] **must:**

29 **(A) Be at least 12 years of age;**

30 **(B) Possess a valid hunting license; and**

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

1 **(C) Not also be a hunter who has a visual impairment.**

2 **(b)** The person accompanying a hunter who has a visual impairment may also hunt game animals
3 or birds if the person possesses the appropriate tags, permits and stamps for the area and time pe-
4 riod.

5 (3) A hunter who possesses a visually impaired hunter license must comply with all [*other*] li-
6 **cence**, tag, permit and stamp requirements of the State Fish and Wildlife Commission and applicable
7 hunting laws.

8 (4) As used in this section, “hunter who has a visual impairment” means a person who files proof
9 with the commission that the person’s central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the better eye
10 with best correction or that the person’s visual acuity, if better than 20/200, is accompanied by a
11 limit to the field of vision to such a degree that its widest diameter subtends an angle of no greater
12 than 20 degrees.

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