

# **HOUSE BILL ANALYSIS**

## **HB 2495**

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**Title:** An act relating to hunting licenses.

**Brief Description:** Allowing holders of big and small game hunting licenses to hunt unclassified wildlife.

**Sponsors:** Representatives Pennington and Benson; by request of Department of Fish and Wildlife.

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### **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES**

**Meeting Date:** January 26, 2000.

**Bill Analysis Prepared by:** Josh Weiss, Counsel (786-7129)

**Background:** Unclassified wildlife includes, but is not limited to, animals such as: coyote, opossum, vole, and nonnative squirrel. Unclassified wildlife does not include any animal currently defined as a game animal or as protected wildlife.

Prior to the merger of the enforcement provisions of the fisheries code and the wildlife code, anyone possessing a hunting license could legally take unclassified wildlife. The merger of these provisions created separate small game and big game hunting licenses. Persons with a small game license are currently allowed to hunt unclassified wildlife, while holders of a big game license may not.

**Summary of Bill:** Holders of a big game license are allowed to hunt unclassified wildlife.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Not requested.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Rulemaking Authority:** None.

