

AMEND PROVISIONS FOR DISABLED CROSSBOW USE

House Bill 4473

Sponsor: Rep. Kirk Profit

**Committee: Conservation, Environment
and Recreation**

Complete to 4-28-97

A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILL 4473 AS INTRODUCED 3-11-97

The bill would amend the section of the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act (NREPA) allowing permanently disabled persons to receive crossbow hunting permits if they are certified by a physician as meeting certain standards and criteria listed in the act. Currently, the act contains specific criteria for evaluating the disabilities of applicants for crossbow permits. The applicant must submit a signed statement from a physician that certifies the applicant's percentage of disability. The physician's certification must be based on a physical therapist's test findings and those findings must show that the applicant has at least 80 percent impairment of a hand, elbow or shoulder. The physician and physical therapist are required to use certain specific criteria listed in the act in determining the existence and level of muscle weaknesses, impaired range of motion, peripheral nerve involvement, amputations, unilateral hand weakness disabilities, spinal cord injury, and coordination assessment to determine whether an applicant is eligible for a crossbow permit. Under the bill, the physician could base his certification decision on a physical therapist's report, but would not be required to do so. In addition, the bill would change the definition of physician to include licensed chiropractors. The current definition includes only licensed medical doctors and licensed osteopaths.

The bill would make changes in the assessment of peripheral nerve involvement, muscle weakness, and impaired range of motion in the determination of whether a disabled person is eligible for a crossbow permit. It would remove "impaired range of motion" as a criterion. Further, the bill would remove requirements that "Techniques of Manual Muscle Testing," by Daniels and Worthingham or other guidelines accepted by the American Medical Association (AMA) be used as guidelines for testing muscle weakness, and that the "American Medical Association Guide to Evaluation and Permanent Impairment Rating" or other guidelines accepted by the AMA be used to determine peripheral nerve involvement. Instead, to determine if the person were eligible for a crossbow permit, there would have to be a grade of "fair" or below for involved upper extremity or a reduction in function in peripheral nerve involvement or muscle weakness, rather than using a standardized test measure as at present.

In addition, arthritis and carpal tunnel syndrome would be added to the list of possible causes of coordination deficit.

MCL 324.40115

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