

THIRD READING

Bill No: AB 2207
Author: Hadwick (R)
Amended: 8/17/26 in Senate
Vote: 21

SENATE NATURAL RES. & WATER COMMITTEE: 7-0, 6/23/26

AYES: Becker, Seyarto, Allen, Cabaldon, Grove, Laird, Stern

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26 (Consent) - See last page for vote

SUBJECT: Hunting tags: transfer: youth program

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This bill requires the California Fish and Game Commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program for pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, or bighorn sheep tags from a parent, grandparent, or legal guardian to a youth, as provided.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Establishes the California Fish and Game Commission (commission) and the department in the California Natural Resources Agency.
- 2) Requires the commission to determine the form of all licenses, permits, tags, reservations, and other entitlements issued pursuant to the Fish and Game Code, and the method of carrying and displaying all licenses, and requires the department to prepare and issue all licenses, permits, tags, reservations, and other entitlements, as provided. Requires both the commission and the department to establish fees in an amount sufficient to recover all reasonable administrative and implementation costs of the department and commission relating to the program for which the fee is paid. (Fish and Game Code (FGC) §1050)

- 3) Declares the legislative intent that the costs of hunting and sport fishing programs shall be provided out of hunting and sport fishing revenues and reimbursements and federal funds received for hunting and sport fishing programs, and other funds appropriated by the Legislature for this purpose, as specified. (FGC §711)
- 4) Authorizes the commission to set regulations for and authorizes a licensed hunter to obtain a tag to take pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, and bighorn sheep, as specified. (FGC §§331, 332, 4332, 4751, 4902)
- 5) Requires a resident or nonresident to be issued a hunting license upon payment of a specified fee, as provided. (FGC §3031)
- 6) Creates the Big Game Management Account within the Fish and Game Preservation Fund; requires fees from the sale of antelope, elk, deer, bear, and sheep tags, and wild pig validations to be deposited in the Big Game Management Account; and requires the collected fees to be used, upon appropriation, to benefit applicable species and public hunting programs, among other related uses. (FGC §3953)
- 7) Makes it unlawful to:
 - a) Take or possess a bird, mammal, fish, reptile, or amphibian except as provided by the Fish and Game Code or applicable regulations, as specified. (FGC §§2000, 2002)
 - b) Transfer licenses, tags, validations, permits, applications, or reservations to another person. (FGC §1052)
 - c) Use or possess any license, tag, validation, permit, application, or reservation not lawfully issued to the user. (FGC §1052)
 - d) Hunt any game bird or mammal without having the required licenses, tags, and/or stamps in possession. (FGC §1054.2)

This bill:

- 1) Requires the commission to establish a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag subject to the following conditions:
 - a) Requires the transferor to transfer a tag issued for pronghorn antelope, elk, deer, bear, or bighorn sheep, as provided.

- b) Requires the transferor to be the parent, legal guardian, or grandparent of the person to whom the tag is transferred.
 - c) Requires the transferee to be 17 years of age or younger, in possession of a valid hunting license, and is otherwise eligible to obtain the applicable tag on the date of the transfer.
 - d) Requires the transferee to be accompanied during the take authorized by the tag by their parent, legal guardian, or grandparent, or any combination of those persons.
 - e) Requires that a transferee not lose any preference points for the particular species as a result of the transfer of the tag if the tag was obtained through a modified-preference point drawing, as provided.
 - f) Authorizes the transferor to transfer a tag for a particular species that may be drawn only once. Requires the ineligibility to draw another tag for that species to apply to the transferor, not the transferee.
- 2) Requires the department to collect a fee from the transferor to cover the reasonable cost of transferring a tag and requires the department to deposit the revenues into the Big Game Management Account, as provided.
 - 3) Requires the commission to adopt regulations to implement the hunting tag transfer program described in 1) and 2) above.
 - 4) Sunsets the tag transfer program on January 1, 2033, as provided.

[NOTE: For additional information regarding this bill, see the Senate Natural Resources and Water Committee's analysis.]

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

According to the Senate Appropriations Committee:

- One-time costs below \$150,000 (General Fund) for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to develop and implement a hunting tag transfer program that authorizes a person to transfer a tag issued for the take of specified species to their child or grandchild, subject to specified conditions.
- Potential increased fee revenues of an unknown amount not to exceed CDFW costs for administration (Big Game Management Account).

SUPPORT: (Verified 8/13/26)

California Bowmen Hunters/State Archery Association
 California Deer Association
 California Houndsmen for Conservation
 California Rifle & Pistol Association
 County of Amador
 County of Shasta
 HOWL for Wildlife
 Mzuri Safari Club
 National Wild Turkey Federation – California State Chapter
 Safari Club International – California Coalition
 Safari Club International – Sacramento Chapter
 Safari Club International – San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
 San Diego County Wildlife Federation
 Suisun Resource Conservation District
 The Black Brant Group
 Tulare Basin Wetlands Association
 Wild Sheep Foundation – California Chapter

OPPOSITION: (Verified 8/13/26)

None received

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: According to the author, “Assembly Bill 2207 focuses on improving access to hunting opportunities for families [...]. This bill is about making sure the traditions of hunting do not fade away, especially for the next generation. If an adult in the family draws a tag but can’t use it, AB 2207 would allow them to pass that opportunity down to a young hunter in the same hunt—so that chance to learn and participate does not go to waste. This bill would make it easier for young hunters to get out in the field with their dad or grandpa—learning the skills, the respect for the land, and the stories that come with it. This bill helps keep California’s hunting heritage alive.”

ASSEMBLY FLOOR: 77-0, 5/14/26

AYES: Addis, Aguiar-Curry, Ahrens, Alanis, Alvarez, Ávila Farías, Bains, Bauer-Kahan, Bennett, Berman, Boerner, Bonta, Bryan, Calderon, Caloza, Carrillo, Castillo, Chen, Connolly, Davies, DeMaio, Dixon, Elhawary, Ellis, Fong, Gabriel, Gallagher, Garcia, Gipson, Jeff Gonzalez, Mark González, Hadwick, Haney, Harabedian, Hart, Hoover, Irwin, Jackson, Johnson, Kalra, Krell, Lackey, Lee, Lowenthal, Macedo, McKinnor, Muratsuchi, Nguyen, Ortega, Pacheco, Papan, Patel, Patterson, Pellerin, Petrie-Norris, Quirk-Silva, Ramos, Ransom, Michelle Rodriguez, Rogers, Blanca Rubio, Sanchez, Schiavo, Schultz,

Sharp-Collins, Solache, Soria, Stefani, Ta, Tangipa, Valencia, Wallis, Ward,
Wicks, Wilson, Zbur, Rivas

NO VOTE RECORDED: Arambula, Flora, Celeste Rodriguez

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