

# Law would help hunters avoid going to court

By RICK CALLAHAN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## INDIANAPOLIS

Indiana residents caught hunting or fishing without a license could avoid a court date by paying their fine in the woods, on a boat or wherever they committed their alleged misdeed under a bill advancing in the General Assembly.

The bill, which passed the Indiana House 89-4 on Wednesday and now heads to the Senate for consideration, would give accused violators the option of paying their fines on the spot to the state conservation officer who cited them.

Rep. Robert Bischoff, the bill's co-sponsor, said it was inspired in part by a program run by Wisconsin's wildlife agency

that he said has been a big success there.

He said the legislation's appeal is that it would save people from getting a court date and allow them to simultaneously buy a license from the conservation officer so they could legally continue their day of hunting, fishing or trapping.

Under the bill, hunters, anglers or trappers could only pay their fines by credit card, through a portable card-reading device. Payments by cash or check would not be permitted.

Bischoff, D-Greendale, predicts the move would be popular.

"It's something they'll appreciate. You know sometimes a license expires, you're not aware of it, there's all kinds of situations, and you know how people hate to go to court," he said. "This would

be a quick way to address a situation right there."

Lt. Col. Samuel Purvis of the Department of Natural Resources' Division of Law Enforcement, said fines for hunting, fishing or trapping license citations range widely across the state — from about \$75 to \$150 — depending on the court costs assessed by Indiana's roughly 400 courts.

Last year, about 3,600 such tickets were issued by the DNR.

He said most people cited for violations end up arranging to pay their fines before their court date.

The bill also would require a \$10 "convenience fee" be charged for each transaction. That money would go to a DNR fund that supports the agency's Fish and Wildlife and Law Enforcement divisions.

Rep. Larry Buell, who voted against the bill Wednesday, said he has concerns about how it might impact conservation officers and the judicial process.

"I just felt a little uneasy about justice in the field instead of in a court situation," said Buell, R-Indianapolis.

Dick Mercier, the president of the Indiana Sportsmen's Roundtable, said he has no objections to the bill and likes the idea of allowing hunters or anglers to avoid court dates.

"We haven't really discussed it with our members yet, but I have spoken to a couple of them and they had no objections to it," Mercier said.

Sen. Brent Steele, R-Bedford, who's sponsoring the bill in the Senate, believes it will pass in that chamber.

## AT A GLANCE

### New bill

A bill headed to the Senate would give those caught fishing or hunting without a license the option of paying their fines on the spot to the state conservation officer who cited them.

### The appeal

Violators would not need a court date. They also would be able to buy a license from the officer and legally continue hunting, fishing or trapping.

### How it would work

Payment would be only by credit card through a portable card-reading device. Cash or checks would not be accepted.

## Bill could require new HPV vaccination

The Associated Press

## INDIANAPOLIS

Indiana girls would be vaccinated against a sexually transmitted disease that can cause cancer if a bill introduced by 13 women senators passes.

School nurses and health officials around the state support vaccinating middle-school aged girls against the human papilloma virus, or HPV, although critics have said it could encourage children to have sex.

The women senators — seven Democrats and six Republicans — support the bill, which was penned by Sen. Connie Lawson, R-Danville.

The bill's backers propose adding the HPV vaccination to the several boosters required for middle-school children. However, schools would not be required to turn away girls without HPV shots, as they are for children without vaccinations for measles, mumps and rubella.

Bonnie Mills, a nurse in Cass County's Southeastern school district, said although 11- and 12-year-old girls may not be old enough for information about sexually transmitted diseases, they are old enough for a vaccine.

"If you take the sexual connotation out of it, it makes good sense. If we don't use what we have, then some children might end up getting cancer down the road because of a poor decision. Is that what we as a society want?"

Bonnie Mills

Nurse in Cass County's Southeastern school district on giving HPV vaccinations to 11- and 12-year-old girls.

"If you take the sexual connotation out of it, it makes good sense," said Mills, who has a 13-year-old daughter. "If we don't use what we have, then some children might end up getting cancer down the road because of a poor decision. Is that what we as a society want?"

But critics decry the price tag for the proposed plan — an estimated \$2.7 million for the 2008-09 school year — and the potential message it sends to children.

"This says, 'Hey, you can engage in sexual activity and not be at risk for this disease,' which is pretty pervasive," said Micah Clark, director of the American Family Association of Indiana.

At least 80 percent of women will have contracted HPV by age 50, according to estimates

by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The majority of cases do not turn into cancer.

HPV vaccines are not required in any states, but proposals have been made in New Jersey, Texas and a few other states.

Last year the Food and Drug Administration approved a vaccine that protects against some strains of the virus, which can cause genital warts and cervical cancer.

"Parents and pediatricians need to explain that it's a vaccine against cancer," Lawson said.

"It's not about promiscuity. If I am a female and I remain abstinent until I get married, there's no guarantee that the man that I marry will not have HPV."

## Pelosi targets global warming

By JOHN HEILPRIN  
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## WASHINGTON

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi sought to create a special committee Thursday in an effort to jump-start long-delayed government efforts to deal with global warming and produce a bill by Independence Day.



PELOSI

Pelosi, D-Calif., said the committee would hold hearings and recommend legislation on how to reduce greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide generated by fossil fuels, that most scientists blame for a gradual warming of the earth's climate.

"I promise to do everything in my power to achieve energy independence ... and to stop global warming," Pelosi said.

Pelosi set a goal of the Fourth of July for finishing a global warming bill that would "truly declare our energy independence."

The committee will be led by Rep. Ed Markey, D-Mass., who shares Pelosi's goals, said a Democratic leadership aide, speaking on condition of anonymity because Pelosi had yet to announce her choice.

Actual bill-drafting duties will be left to committees that have a say in the matter. That could be several because global climate change could affect virtually everything.

Pelosi's move increases the likelihood that Democrats will propose far tougher constraints on greenhouse gas pollution than the Bush administration wants. She also has outflanked for now — and angered — a few Democrats who head important House committees.

"We should probably name it the committee on world travel and junkets," said Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, which oversees the Clean Air Act and the Environmental Protection Agency.

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