



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1311

Introduced 1/28/2025, by Sen. Laura Ellman

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new	
515 ILCS 5/1-92 new	
515 ILCS 5/1-230	from Ch. 56, par. 1-230
515 ILCS 5/20-12 new	
515 ILCS 5/20-20	from Ch. 56, par. 20-20
515 ILCS 5/20-30	from Ch. 56, par. 20-30
515 ILCS 5/20-45	from Ch. 56, par. 20-45
515 ILCS 5/20-52 new	
515 ILCS 5/20-55	from Ch. 56, par. 20-55
515 ILCS 5/20-110	from Ch. 56, par. 20-110
515 ILCS 5/20-115	from Ch. 56, par. 20-115

Amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Requires an aquatic habitat conservation stamp for every person obtaining a resident or non-resident license under the Code. Creates the Aquatic Habitat Conservation Fund as a special fund in the State Treasury with fees from the sale of aquatic habitat conservation stamps deposited into the fund and with appropriations from the Fund solely to the Department of Natural Resources to be used only (i) for the management, restoration, and protection of aquatic and riparian habitats in Illinois, (ii) for elimination of or protection from aquatic nuisance species, and (iii) for preparation for and protection from the effects of climate change in Illinois, including increased risks of flooding, erosion, and sedimentation. Defines terms. Makes conforming changes to the State Finance Act.

LRB104 07182 BDA 17219 b

1 AN ACT concerning fish.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The State Finance Act is amended by adding
5 Section 5.1030 as follows:

6 (30 ILCS 105/5.1030 new)

7 Sec. 5.1030. The Aquatic Habitat Conservation Fund.

8 Section 10. The Fish and Aquatic Life Code is amended by
9 changing Sections 1-230, 20-20, 20-30, 20-45, 20-55, 20-110,
10 and 20-115 and by adding Sections 1-92, 20-12, and 20-52 as
11 follows:

12 (515 ILCS 5/1-92 new)

13 Sec. 1-92. Aquatic habitat conservation stamp. "Aquatic
14 habitat conservation stamp" means a special stamp issued by
15 the Department (i) for the management, restoration, and
16 protection of aquatic and riparian habitats in Illinois, (ii)
17 for elimination of or protection from aquatic nuisance
18 species, and (iii) for preparation for and protection from the
19 effects of climate change in Illinois, including increased
20 risks of flooding, erosion, and sedimentation.

1 (515 ILCS 5/1-230) (from Ch. 56, par. 1-230)

2 Sec. 1-230. Wildlife and Fish Fund; other Funds;
3 disposition of money received. All fees, fines, income of
4 whatever kind or nature derived from hunting and fishing
5 activities on lands, waters, or both under the jurisdiction or
6 control of the Department, and all penalties collected under
7 this Code shall be deposited into the State Treasury and shall
8 be set apart in a special fund to be known as the Wildlife and
9 Fish Fund; except that fees derived solely from the sale of
10 salmon stamps, income from art contests for the salmon stamp,
11 including income from the sale of reprints, and gifts,
12 donations, grants, and bequests of money for the conservation
13 and propagation of salmon shall be deposited into the State
14 Treasury and set apart in the special fund to be known as the
15 Salmon Fund; except that fees derived solely from the sale of
16 aquatic habitat conservation stamps shall be deposited into
17 the State Treasury and set apart in the special fund to be
18 known as the Aquatic Habitat Conservation Fund; and except
19 that fees derived solely from the sale of state migratory
20 waterfowl stamps, and gifts, donations, grants and bequests of
21 money for the conservation and propagation of waterfowl, shall
22 be deposited into the State Treasury and set apart in the
23 special fund to be known as the State Migratory Waterfowl
24 Stamp Fund. All interest that accrues from moneys in the
25 Wildlife and Fish Fund, the Salmon Fund, the Aquatic Habitat
26 Conservation Fund, and the State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp

1 Fund shall be retained in those funds respectively. Except for
2 the additional moneys deposited under Section 805-550 of the
3 Department of Natural Resources (Conservation) Law of the
4 Civil Administrative Code of Illinois, appropriations from the
5 Wildlife and Fish Fund shall be made only to the Department for
6 the carrying out of the powers and functions vested by law in
7 the Department for the administration and management of fish
8 and wildlife resources of this State for such activities as
9 (i) the purchase of land for fish hatcheries, wildlife
10 refuges, preserves, and public shooting and fishing grounds;
11 (ii) the purchase and distribution of wild birds, the eggs of
12 wild birds, and wild mammals; (iii) the rescuing, restoring
13 and distributing of fish; (iv) the maintenance of wildlife
14 refuges or preserves, public shooting grounds, public fishing
15 grounds, and fish hatcheries; and (v) the feeding and care of
16 wild birds, wild mammals, and fish. Appropriations from the
17 Salmon Fund shall be made only to the Department to be used
18 solely for the conservation and propagation of salmon,
19 including construction, operation, and maintenance of a cold
20 water hatchery, and for payment of the costs of printing
21 salmon stamps, the expenses incurred in acquiring salmon stamp
22 designs, and the expenses of producing reprints.
23 Appropriations from the Aquatic Habitat Conservation Fund
24 shall be made solely to the Department to be used only (i) for
25 the management, restoration, and protection of aquatic and
26 riparian habitats in Illinois, (ii) for elimination of or

1 protection from aquatic nuisance species, and (iii) for
2 preparation for and protection from the effects of climate
3 change in Illinois, including increased risks of flooding,
4 erosion, and sedimentation.

5 (Source: P.A. 95-853, eff. 8-18-08; 96-1160, eff. 1-1-11;
6 96-1518, eff. 2-4-11.)

7 (515 ILCS 5/20-12 new)

8 Sec. 20-12. Aquatic habitat conservation stamp. Any
9 individual taking or attempting to take any aquatic life
10 protected by this Code by any means whatever in the State of
11 Illinois shall, in addition to any other license required by
12 this Code, first obtain an aquatic habitat conservation stamp
13 authorized by the Department. Individuals not required to
14 obtain a license are not required to obtain an aquatic habitat
15 conservation stamp.

16 (515 ILCS 5/20-20) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-20)

17 Sec. 20-20. Non-resident licenses. Any individuals 16
18 years of age or older not residents of the State of Illinois
19 shall, before taking or attempting to take any aquatic life
20 protected by this Code by any means whatever in the State of
21 Illinois, obtain a non-resident license to do so. In addition,
22 before taking or attempting to take salmon from Lake Michigan,
23 a non-resident 16 years of age or older shall obtain a salmon
24 stamp authorized by the Department; ~~and~~ before taking or

1 attempting to take trout from all waters except Lake Michigan,
2 a non-resident 16 years of age or older shall obtain an inland
3 trout stamp authorized by the Department; and before taking or
4 attempting to take any aquatic life protected by this Code by
5 any means whatever in the State of Illinois, a non-resident 16
6 years of age or older shall obtain an aquatic habitat
7 conservation stamp.

8 (Source: P.A. 87-833; 88-91.)

9 (515 ILCS 5/20-30) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-30)

10 Sec. 20-30. Application; issuance of license. No license
11 shall be issued to use sport fishing or trot line devices, or
12 any other fishing devices, until application has been made to
13 the Department, to any county, city, village, township, or
14 incorporated town clerk, or any other person authorized or
15 designated by the Department to issue licenses. Each clerk
16 designating agents to issue licenses, ~~and~~ salmon stamps, and
17 aquatic habitat conservation stamps shall furnish the
18 Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the
19 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Applications shall
20 be executed and sworn to and shall set forth the name and
21 description of the applicant and place of residence. No
22 license, ~~or~~ salmon stamp, or aquatic habitat conservation
23 stamp shall be issued except upon definite proof of identity
24 and place of legal residence.

25 No clerk shall sell any license, ~~or~~ salmon stamp, or

1 aquatic habitat conservation stamp at any place other than
2 within the territorial area for which he or she was elected or
3 appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized to furnish
4 licenses, ~~or~~ salmon stamps, or aquatic habitat conservation
5 stamps for issuance by any other business establishment.

6 (Source: P.A. 89-66, eff. 1-1-96; 90-225, eff. 7-25-97.)

7 (515 ILCS 5/20-45) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-45)

8 Sec. 20-45. License fees for residents. Fees for licenses
9 for residents of the State of Illinois shall be as follows:

10 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, for
11 sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
12 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, the fee is
13 \$14.50 for individuals 16 to 64 years old, one-half of the
14 current fishing license fee for individuals age 65 or
15 older, and, commencing with the 2012 license year,
16 one-half of the current fishing license fee for resident
17 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
18 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
19 the United States as an active duty member of the United
20 States Armed Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or the
21 Reserves of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans must
22 provide to the Department acceptable verification of their
23 service. The Department shall establish by administrative
24 rule the procedure by which such verification of service
25 shall be made to the Department for the purpose of issuing

1 fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

2 (a-3) Except as otherwise provided in this Section,
3 for sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
4 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, residents
5 of this State may obtain a 3-year fishing license. The fee
6 for a 3-year fishing license is 3 times the annual fee. For
7 residents age 65 or older, the fee is one half of the fee
8 charged for a 3-year fishing license. For resident
9 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
10 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
11 the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
12 for a 3-year fishing license. Veterans must provide to the
13 Department, per administrative rule, verification of their
14 service. The Department shall establish what constitutes
15 suitable verification of service for the purpose of
16 issuing 3-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a
17 reduced fee.

18 (a-5) The fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be
19 \$1 for an annual license and 3 times the annual fee for a
20 3-year license for residents over 75 years of age.

21 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing
22 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee
23 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the
24 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device
25 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman
26 as follows:

1 (1) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
2 thereof, of seine the fee is \$18. For each minnow
3 seine, minnow trap, or net for commercial purposes the
4 fee is \$20.

5 (2) For each device to fish with a 100 hook trot
6 line device, basket trap, hoop net, or dip net the fee
7 is \$3.

8 (3) When used in the waters of Lake Michigan, for
9 the first 2000 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, of
10 gill net the fee is \$10; and for each 1000 additional
11 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, the fee is \$10.
12 These fees shall apply to all gill nets in use in the
13 water or on drying reels on the shore.

14 (4) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
15 thereof, of gill net or trammel net the fee is \$18.

16 (c) Residents of this State may obtain a sportsmen's
17 combination license that shall entitle the holder to the
18 same non-commercial fishing privileges as residents
19 holding a license as described in subsection (a) of this
20 Section and to the same hunting privileges as residents
21 holding a license to hunt all species as described in
22 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No sportsmen's
23 combination license shall be issued to any individual who
24 would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
25 license separately. The sportsmen's combination license
26 fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or older, the fee

1 is one-half of the fee charged for a sportsmen's
2 combination license. For resident veterans of the United
3 States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or
4 mobilization by the President of the United States as an
5 active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
6 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United
7 States Armed Forces, the fee, commencing with the 2012
8 license year, is one-half of the fee charged for a
9 sportsmen's combination license. Veterans must provide to
10 the Department acceptable verification of their service.
11 The Department shall establish by administrative rule the
12 procedure by which such verification of service shall be
13 made to the Department for the purpose of issuing
14 sportsmen's combination licenses to resident veterans at a
15 reduced fee.

16 (c-5) Residents of this State may obtain a 3-year
17 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the
18 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
19 residents holding a license as described in subsection
20 (a-3) and to the same hunting privileges as residents
21 holding a license to hunt all species as described in
22 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. A 3-year sportsmen's
23 combination license shall not be issued to any individual
24 who would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
25 license separately. The 3-year sportsmen's combination
26 license fee shall be 3 times the annual fee. For residents

1 age 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for
2 a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. For resident
3 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
4 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
5 the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
6 for a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. Veterans
7 must provide to the Department, per administrative rule,
8 verification of their service. The Department shall
9 establish what constitutes suitable verification of
10 service for the purpose of issuing 3-year sportsmen's
11 combination licenses to resident veterans at a reduced
12 fee.

13 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices
14 as defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as
15 defined in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does
16 not exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon,
17 ~~or~~ inland trout stamp, or aquatic habitat conservation
18 stamp. The licenses provided for by this subsection are
19 not required for residents of the State of Illinois who
20 have obtained the license provided for in subsection (a)
21 or (a-3) of this Section.

22 (e) All residents before using any commercial mussel
23 device shall obtain a commercial mussel license, the fee
24 for which shall be \$50.

25 (f) Residents of this State, upon establishing
26 residency as required by the Department, may obtain a

1 lifetime hunting or fishing license or lifetime
2 sportsmen's combination license which shall entitle the
3 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
4 residents holding a license as described in paragraph (a)
5 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
6 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
7 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No lifetime
8 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to or
9 retained by any individual who would be ineligible for
10 either the fishing or hunting license separately, either
11 upon issuance, or in any year a violation would subject an
12 individual to have either or both fishing or hunting
13 privileges rescinded. The lifetime hunting and fishing
14 license fees shall be as follows:

15 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing
16 license fee.

17 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting
18 license fee.

19 (3) Lifetime sportsmen's combination license: 30 x
20 the current sportsmen's combination license fee.

21 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall
22 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department
23 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use
24 of lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime
25 license issued under this Section for violations of those
26 rules or regulations or other provisions under this Code or

1 the Wildlife Code, or a violation of the United States Code
2 that involves the taking, possessing, killing, harvesting,
3 transportation, selling, exporting, or importing any fish or
4 aquatic life protected by this Code or the taking, possessing,
5 killing, harvesting, transportation, selling, exporting, or
6 importing any fauna protected by the Wildlife Code when any
7 part of the United States Code violation occurred in Illinois.
8 Individuals under 16 years of age who possess a lifetime
9 hunting or sportsmen's combination license shall have in their
10 possession, while in the field, a certificate of competency as
11 required under Section 3.2 of the Wildlife Code. Any lifetime
12 license issued under this Section shall not exempt individuals
13 from obtaining additional stamps or permits required under the
14 provisions of this Code or the Wildlife Code. Individuals
15 required to purchase additional stamps shall sign the stamps
16 and have them in their possession while fishing or hunting
17 with a lifetime license. All fees received from the issuance
18 of lifetime licenses shall be deposited in the Fish and
19 Wildlife Endowment Fund.

20 Except for licenses issued under subsection (e) of this
21 Section, all licenses provided for in this Section shall
22 expire on March 31 of each year, except that the license
23 provided for in subsection (d) of this Section shall expire 24
24 hours after the effective date and time listed on the face of
25 the license. Licenses issued under subsection (a-3) or (c-5)
26 shall expire on March 31 of the 2nd year after the year in

1 which the license is issued.

2 The Department shall by administrative rule provide for
3 the automatic renewal of a fishing license upon the request of
4 the applicant.

5 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
6 license provided for in subsection (a), (a-3), or (d) of this
7 Section shall be fined according to the provisions of Section
8 20-35 of this Code.

9 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
10 licenses provided for in subsections (b) and (e) of this
11 Section shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

12 (g) For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
13 verification" means official documentation from the Department
14 of Defense or the appropriate Major Command showing
15 mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including: (i) a
16 DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of Military
17 Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard, (iii) a
18 letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members of the
19 Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major Command
20 covering Illinois for active duty members, (v) personnel
21 records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any other
22 documentation that the Department, by administrative rule,
23 deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or service
24 abroad.

25 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
26 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United

1 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
2 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
3 States.

4 (Source: P.A. 102-780, eff. 5-13-22; 102-837, eff. 5-13-22;
5 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-456, eff. 1-1-24.)

6 (515 ILCS 5/20-52 new)

7 Sec. 20-52. The fee for an aquatic habitat conservation
8 stamp shall be \$6 for both resident and non-resident
9 licensees. The fee for an aquatic habitat conservation stamp
10 shall be waived for residents over 75 years of age. Every
11 person shall sign the aquatic habitat conservation stamp or
12 affix the aquatic habitat conservation stamp to his or her
13 license. These stamps shall expire on March 31 of each year.
14 All individuals required to have and failing to have an
15 aquatic habitat conservation stamp as provided in Section
16 20-12 of this Code shall be guilty of a petty offense.

17 (515 ILCS 5/20-55) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-55)

18 Sec. 20-55. License fees for non-residents. Fees for
19 licenses for non-residents of the State of Illinois are as
20 follows:

21 (a) For sport fishing devices as defined by Section 10-95,
22 or spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110,
23 non-residents age 16 or older shall be charged \$31 for a
24 fishing license to fish. For sport fishing devices as defined

1 by Section 10-95, or spearing devices as defined in Section
2 10-110, for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive days fishing
3 in the State of Illinois the fee is \$15.00.

4 For sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95, or
5 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, for 24 hours of
6 fishing the fee is \$10. This license does not exempt the
7 licensee from the salmon stamp, ~~or~~ inland trout stamp, or
8 aquatic habitat conservation stamp requirement.

9 (b) All non-residents before using any commercial fishing
10 device shall obtain a non-resident commercial fishing license,
11 the fee for which shall be \$300, and a non-resident fishing
12 license. Each and every commercial device shall be licensed by
13 a non-resident commercial fisherman as follows:

14 (1) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction thereof, of
15 seine (excluding minnow seines) the fee is \$36.

16 (2) For each device to fish with a 100 hook trot line
17 device, basket trap, hoop net, or dip net the fee is \$6.

18 (3) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction thereof, of
19 trammel net the fee is \$36.

20 (4) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction thereof, of
21 gill net the fee is \$36.

22 All persons required to have and failing to have the
23 license provided for in subsection (a) of this Section shall
24 be fined under Section 20-35 of this Code. Each person
25 required to have and failing to have the licenses required
26 under subsection (b) of this Section shall be guilty of a Class

1 B misdemeanor.

2 All licenses provided for in this Section shall expire on
3 March 31 of each year; except that the 24-hour license for
4 sport fishing devices or spearing devices shall expire 24
5 hours after the effective date and time listed on the face of
6 the license and licenses for sport fishing devices or spearing
7 devices for a period not to exceed 3 consecutive days fishing
8 in the State of Illinois as provided in subsection (a) of this
9 Section shall expire at midnight on the tenth day after
10 issued, not counting the day issued.

11 (Source: P.A. 99-78, eff. 7-20-15.)

12 (515 ILCS 5/20-110) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-110)

13 Sec. 20-110. Possession of license, permit, or stamp.
14 Every person holding any license, salmon stamp, inland trout
15 stamp, aquatic habitat conservation stamp, or permit issued
16 under this Code shall have it in his or her possession for
17 immediate presentation for inspection to the authorized
18 employees of the Department, or to any sheriff, deputy
19 sheriff, or any other peace officer, making a demand for it
20 within his or her jurisdiction.

21 (Source: P.A. 87-833; 88-91.)

22 (515 ILCS 5/20-115) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-115)

23 Sec. 20-115. Form of licenses, stamps, and permits.
24 Licenses, salmon stamps, inland trout stamps, aquatic habitat

1 conservation stamps, and permits authorized to be issued under
2 this Code shall be prepared by the Department and shall be in
3 the form prescribed by the Department. In addition, at the
4 time of issuance, the information required on each license
5 shall be completed on it by the issuing agent or his or her
6 sub-agent and each license shall be signed by the licensee, or
7 initialed by the designated purchaser and then signed
8 immediately upon receipt by the licensee, and counter-signed
9 by the issuing agent or his or her sub-agent. All licenses
10 shall be supplied by the Department, subject to any rules and
11 regulations as the Department may prescribe. Any license not
12 properly prepared, obtained, and signed as required by this
13 Code shall be void.

14 (Source: P.A. 90-225, eff. 7-25-97.)