



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB1880

Introduced 2/5/2025, by Sen. Steve McClure

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

520 ILCS 5/3.2

from Ch. 61, par. 3.2

Amends the Wildlife Code. Allows nonresidents who are immediate family members of landowners and who qualify for special deer, turkey, and combination hunting licenses under the Act to obtain deer, turkey, and combination permits for the regular resident permit fee for hunting on that property after providing acceptable verification to the Department of Natural Resources. Defines "immediate family member".

LRB104 10611 BDA 20687 b

1 AN ACT concerning animals.

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

4 Section 5. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing
5 Section 3.2 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/3.2) (from Ch. 61, par. 3.2)

7 Sec. 3.2. Hunting license; application; instruction.
8 Before the Department or any county, city, village, township,
9 incorporated town clerk or his duly designated agent or any
10 other person authorized or designated by the Department to
11 issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any
12 person, the person shall file his application with the
13 Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on a
14 form provided by the Department and further give definite
15 proof of identity and place of legal residence. Each clerk
16 designating agents to issue licenses and stamps shall furnish
17 the Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the
18 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Each clerk or his
19 duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell licenses and
20 stamps only within the territorial area for which he was
21 elected or appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized
22 to furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by any other
23 business establishment. Each application shall be executed and

1 sworn to and shall set forth the name and description of the
2 applicant and place of residence.

3 No hunting license shall be issued to any person born on or
4 after January 1, 1980 unless he presents the person authorized
5 to issue the license evidence that he has held a hunting
6 license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a
7 prior year, or a certificate of competency as provided in this
8 Section. Persons under 18 years of age may be issued a Lifetime
9 Hunting or Sportsmen's Combination License as provided under
10 Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code but shall not
11 be entitled to hunt alone, without the supervision of an adult
12 age 21 or older, unless they have a certificate of competency
13 as provided in this Section and the certificate is in their
14 possession while hunting.

15 The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize
16 personnel of the Department or certified volunteer instructors
17 to conduct courses, of not less than 10 hours in length, in
18 firearms and hunter safety, which may include training in bow
19 and arrow safety, at regularly specified intervals throughout
20 the State. Persons successfully completing the course shall
21 receive a certificate of competency. The Department of Natural
22 Resources may further cooperate with any reputable association
23 or organization in establishing courses if the organization
24 has as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the
25 handling of firearms or bow and arrow.

26 The Department of Natural Resources shall designate any

1 person found by it to be competent to give instruction in the
2 handling of firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. The
3 persons so appointed shall give the course of instruction and
4 upon the successful completion shall issue to the person
5 instructed a certificate of competency in the safe handling of
6 firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. No charge shall be
7 made for any course of instruction except for materials or
8 ammunition consumed. The Department of Natural Resources shall
9 furnish information on the requirements of hunter safety
10 education programs to be distributed free of charge to
11 applicants for hunting licenses by the persons appointed and
12 authorized to issue licenses. Funds for the conducting of
13 firearms and hunter safety courses shall be taken from the fee
14 charged for the Firearm Owners Identification Card.

15 The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species for a
16 resident of Illinois is \$12. For residents age 65 or older,
17 and, commencing with the 2012 license year, resident veterans
18 of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service
19 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States
20 as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
21 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United States
22 Armed Forces, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
23 hunting license to hunt all species for a resident of
24 Illinois. Veterans must provide to the Department acceptable
25 verification of their service. The Department shall establish
26 by administrative rule the procedure by which such

1 verification of service shall be made to the Department for
2 the purpose of issuing resident veterans hunting licenses at a
3 reduced fee. The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species
4 shall be \$1 for residents over 75 years of age. Nonresidents
5 shall be charged \$57 for a hunting license.

6 Residents of this State may obtain a 3-year hunting
7 license to hunt all species as described in Section 3.1 for 3
8 times the annual fee. For residents age 65 or older and
9 resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after
10 returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President
11 of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
12 for a 3-year hunting license to hunt all species as described
13 in Section 3.1 for a resident of this State. Veterans must
14 provide to the Department, per administrative rule,
15 verification of their service. The Department shall establish
16 what constitutes suitable verification of service for the
17 purpose of issuing resident veterans 3-year hunting licenses
18 at a reduced fee.

19 Nonresidents may be issued a nonresident hunting license
20 for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive days' hunting in the
21 State and shall be charged a fee of \$35.

22 Nonresidents who are immediate family members of
23 landowners and who qualify for special deer, turkey, and
24 combination hunting licenses under Section 3.1-6 of this Act
25 may obtain deer, turkey, and combination permits for the
26 regular resident permit fee for hunting on that property after

1 providing acceptable verification to the Department of Natural
2 Resources. For the purposes of this paragraph "immediate
3 family member" includes grandparents, parents, siblings,
4 children, and grandchildren.

5 A special nonresident hunting license authorizing a
6 nonresident to take game birds by hunting on a game breeding
7 and hunting preserve area only, established under Section
8 3.27, shall be issued upon proper application being made and
9 payment of a fee equal to that for a resident hunting license.
10 The expiration date of this license shall be on the same date
11 each year that game breeding and hunting preserve area
12 licenses expire.

13 Each applicant for a State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp,
14 regardless of his residence or other condition, shall pay a
15 fee of \$15 and shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State
16 Migratory Waterfowl Stamp shall be waived for residents over
17 75 years of age. Except as provided under Section 20-45 of the
18 Fish and Aquatic Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the
19 person or affixed to his license or permit in a space
20 designated by the Department for that purpose.

21 Each applicant for a State Habitat Stamp, regardless of
22 his residence or other condition, shall pay a fee of \$5 and
23 shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State Habitat Stamp shall
24 be waived for residents over 75 years of age. Except as
25 provided under Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life
26 Code, the stamp shall be signed by the person or affixed to his

1 license or permit in a space designated by the Department for
2 that purpose.

3 Nothing in this Section shall be construed as to require
4 the purchase of more than one State Habitat Stamp by any person
5 in any one license year.

6 The fees for State Pheasant Stamps and State Furbearer
7 Stamps shall be waived for residents over 75 years of age.

8 The Department shall furnish the holders of hunting
9 licenses and stamps with an insignia as evidence of possession
10 of license, or license and stamp, as the Department may
11 consider advisable. The insignia shall be exhibited and used
12 as the Department may order.

13 All other hunting licenses and all State stamps shall
14 expire upon March 31 of each year. Three-year hunting licenses
15 shall expire on March 31 of the 2nd year after the year in
16 which the license is issued.

17 Every person holding any license, permit, or stamp issued
18 under the provisions of this Act shall have it in his
19 possession for immediate presentation for inspection to the
20 officers and authorized employees of the Department, any
21 sheriff, deputy sheriff, or any other peace officer making a
22 demand for it. This provision shall not apply to Department
23 owned or managed sites where it is required that all hunters
24 deposit their license, permit, or Firearm Owner's
25 Identification Card at the check station upon entering the
26 hunting areas.

1 For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
2 verification" means official documentation from the Department
3 of Defense or the appropriate Major Command showing
4 mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including: (i) a
5 DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of Military
6 Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard, (iii) a
7 letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members of the
8 Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major Command
9 covering Illinois for active duty members, (v) personnel
10 records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any other
11 documentation that the Department, by administrative rule,
12 deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or service
13 abroad.

14 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
15 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
16 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
17 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
18 States.

19 (Source: P.A. 102-780, eff. 5-13-22; 103-456, eff. 1-1-24.)