

SB2925



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

SB2925

Introduced 1/27/2026, 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 19136 TRT 32581 b

A BILL FOR

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 the clerk's duly designated agent
10 or any other person authorized or designated by the Department
11 to issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any
12 person, the person shall file the person's application with
13 the Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on
14 a 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 the
19 clerk's duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell
20 licenses and stamps only within the territorial area for which
21 the clerk was elected or appointed. No duly designated agent
22 is authorized to furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by
23 any other business establishment. Each application shall be

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 Nonresidents who are immediate family members of
24 landowners and who qualify for special deer, turkey, and
25 combination hunting licenses under Section 3.1-6 of this Act
26 may obtain deer, turkey, and combination permits for the

1 regular resident permit fee for hunting on that property after
2 providing acceptable verification to the Department of Natural
3 Resources. For the purposes of this paragraph "immediate
4 family member" includes grandparents, parents, siblings,
5 children, and grandchildren.

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

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

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

1 Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the person or affixed
2 to the person's license or permit in a space designated by the
3 Department for that purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

1 hunting areas.

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

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

20 (Source: P.A. 103-456, eff. 1-1-24; 104-325, eff. 1-1-26.)