

SB2701



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2701

Introduced 1/10/2024, by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

515 ILCS 5/20-45

from Ch. 56, par. 20-45

Amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Allows for sport fishing devices resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces who are at least 50% disabled with service-related disabilities to obtain a 4-year fishing license. Provides that the fee for a 4-year fishing license for a resident veteran is \$29. Requires resident veterans to provide to the Department of Natural Resources verification of their service and service-related disability. Requires the Department to establish what constitutes suitable verification of service and service-related disability for the purpose of issuing 4-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee. Provides that 4-year fishing licenses issued to qualifying resident veterans shall expire on March 31 of the third year after the year in which the license is issued.

LRB103 36023 LNS 66110 b

A BILL FOR

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 Fish and Aquatic Life Code is amended by
5 changing Section 20-45 as follows:

6 (515 ILCS 5/20-45) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-45)

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

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

1 shall be made to the Department for the purpose of issuing
2 fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

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

19 (a-4) Except as otherwise provided in this Section,
20 for sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
21 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, resident
22 veterans of the United States Armed Forces who are at
23 least 50% disabled with service-related disabilities may
24 obtain a 4-year fishing license. For resident veterans who
25 qualify for a 4-year fishing license under this
26 subsection, the fee for a 4-year fishing license is \$29.

1 Resident veterans must provide to the Department, per
2 administrative rule, verification of their service and
3 service-related disability. The Department shall establish
4 what constitutes suitable verification of service and
5 service-related disability for the purpose of issuing
6 4-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced
7 fee.

8 (a-5) The fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be
9 \$1 for an annual license and 3 times the annual fee for a
10 3-year license for residents over 75 years of age.

11 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing
12 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee
13 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the
14 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device
15 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman
16 as follows:

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

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

24 (3) When used in the waters of Lake Michigan, for
25 the first 2000 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, of
26 gill net the fee is \$10; and for each 1000 additional

1 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, the fee is \$10.
2 These fees shall apply to all gill nets in use in the
3 water or on drying reels on the shore.

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

6 (c) Residents of this State may obtain a sportsmen's
7 combination license that shall entitle the holder to the
8 same non-commercial fishing privileges as residents
9 holding a license as described in subsection (a) of this
10 Section and to the same hunting privileges as residents
11 holding a license to hunt all species as described in
12 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No sportsmen's
13 combination license shall be issued to any individual who
14 would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
15 license separately. The sportsmen's combination license
16 fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or older, the fee
17 is one-half of the fee charged for a sportsmen's
18 combination license. For resident veterans of the United
19 States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or
20 mobilization by the President of the United States as an
21 active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
22 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United
23 States Armed Forces, the fee, commencing with the 2012
24 license year, is one-half of the fee charged for a
25 sportsmen's combination license. Veterans must provide to
26 the Department acceptable verification of their service.

1 The Department shall establish by administrative rule the
2 procedure by which such verification of service shall be
3 made to the Department for the purpose of issuing
4 sportsmen's combination licenses to resident veterans at a
5 reduced fee.

6 (c-5) Residents of this State may obtain a 3-year
7 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the
8 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
9 residents holding a license as described in subsection
10 (a-3) and to the same hunting privileges as residents
11 holding a license to hunt all species as described in
12 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. A 3-year sportsmen's
13 combination license shall not be issued to any individual
14 who would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
15 license separately. The 3-year sportsmen's combination
16 license fee shall be 3 times the annual fee. For residents
17 age 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for
18 a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. For resident
19 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
20 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
21 the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
22 for a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. Veterans
23 must provide to the Department, per administrative rule,
24 verification of their service. The Department shall
25 establish what constitutes suitable verification of
26 service for the purpose of issuing 3-year sportsmen's

1 combination licenses to resident veterans at a reduced
2 fee.

3 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices
4 as defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as
5 defined in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does
6 not exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon
7 or inland trout stamp. The licenses provided for by this
8 subsection are not required for residents of the State of
9 Illinois who have obtained the license provided for in
10 subsection (a) or (a-3) of this Section.

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

14 (f) Residents of this State, upon establishing
15 residency as required by the Department, may obtain a
16 lifetime hunting or fishing license or lifetime
17 sportsmen's combination license which shall entitle the
18 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
19 residents holding a license as described in paragraph (a)
20 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
21 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
22 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No lifetime
23 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to or
24 retained by any individual who would be ineligible for
25 either the fishing or hunting license separately, either
26 upon issuance, or in any year a violation would subject an

1 individual to have either or both fishing or hunting
2 privileges rescinded. The lifetime hunting and fishing
3 license fees shall be as follows:

4 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing
5 license fee.

6 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting
7 license fee.

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

10 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall
11 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department
12 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use
13 of lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime
14 license issued under this Section for violations of those
15 rules or regulations or other provisions under this Code or
16 the Wildlife Code, or a violation of the United States Code
17 that involves the taking, possessing, killing, harvesting,
18 transportation, selling, exporting, or importing any fish or
19 aquatic life protected by this Code or the taking, possessing,
20 killing, harvesting, transportation, selling, exporting, or
21 importing any fauna protected by the Wildlife Code when any
22 part of the United States Code violation occurred in Illinois.
23 Individuals under 16 years of age who possess a lifetime
24 hunting or sportsmen's combination license shall have in their
25 possession, while in the field, a certificate of competency as
26 required under Section 3.2 of the Wildlife Code. Any lifetime

1 license issued under this Section shall not exempt individuals
2 from obtaining additional stamps or permits required under the
3 provisions of this Code or the Wildlife Code. Individuals
4 required to purchase additional stamps shall sign the stamps
5 and have them in their possession while fishing or hunting
6 with a lifetime license. All fees received from the issuance
7 of lifetime licenses shall be deposited in the Fish and
8 Wildlife Endowment Fund.

9 Except for licenses issued under subsection (e) of this
10 Section, all licenses provided for in this Section shall
11 expire on March 31 of each year, except that the license
12 provided for in subsection (d) of this Section shall expire 24
13 hours after the effective date and time listed on the face of
14 the license. Licenses issued under subsection (a-3) or (c-5)
15 shall expire on March 31 of the 2nd year after the year in
16 which the license is issued. Licenses issued under subsection
17 (a-4) shall expire on March 31 of the third year after the year
18 in which the license is issued.

19 The Department shall by administrative rule provide for
20 the automatic renewal of a fishing license upon the request of
21 the applicant.

22 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
23 license provided for in subsection (a), (a-3), or (d) of this
24 Section shall be fined according to the provisions of Section
25 20-35 of this Code.

26 All individuals required to have and failing to have the

1 licenses provided for in subsections (b) and (e) of this
2 Section shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

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

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

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