

2022 -- H 7868

LC004962

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LICENSING

Introduced By: Representatives P Morgan, Hull, C Lima, Phillips, Kennedy, Azzinaro,
Corvese, McLaughlin, J Lombardi, and Biah

Date Introduced: March 04, 2022

Referred To: House Finance

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 20-2-2 and 20-2-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-2 entitled
2 "Licensing" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-2-2. Issuance of licenses.**

4 [\(a\)](#) Any person or corporation appointed by the director as provided in § 20-2-1 shall, upon
5 the application of any person entitled to receive a license under this chapter and upon payment of
6 the specified license fee, register and issue to that person a license, either printed or displayed
7 electronically on a mobile device, so long as the certificate provides all of the information requested
8 in the data fields identified by the department. The certificate shall bear the name, age, occupation,
9 place of residence, signature, and identifying description of the registrant and shall authorize the
10 registrant to fish or shellfish, or to pursue, hunt, and kill game in the state of Rhode Island during
11 those seasons and in those manners and according to those conditions, as shall be provided by law;
12 provided, however, that these authorized agents shall not have authority to issue lobster,
13 commercial shellfish, or commercial fishing licenses of any kind.

14 [\(b\) Any person who can demonstrate with a valid government issued photo ID that they](#)
15 [are sixty-five \(65\) or older does not have to pay the license fee or complete an application as](#)
16 [required by subsection \(a\) of this section.](#)

17 **20-2-31. Hunting and fishing licenses -- Exceptions.**

18 (a) Every valid license to hunt or fish in this state that is held by any resident of this state
19 upon joining the armed forces or the merchant marine of the United States is hereby extended and

1 is in force and valid until six (6) months following the termination of his or her service.

2 (b) Every member of the armed forces or of the merchant marine of the United States may
3 hunt or fish in this state if that person procures a hunting or fishing license issued by the state of
4 Rhode Island, the fee for which is that charged for a resident civilian.

5 (c) Every man or woman who was a part of the armed forces of the United States
6 government and is now a one hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran, and any man or woman
7 who is one hundred percent (100%) permanently disabled, is entitled, subject to the provisions of
8 this title, to receive a license to hunt or fish or both in this state; and upon the presentation of his or
9 her necessary military discharge identification or disability papers or both, as prescribed by the
10 department of environmental management, shall, at the discretion of the licensing authority,
11 receive, without the payment of any license fee, a continuing special form of license authorizing
12 the man or woman to hunt or fish or both in this state in accordance with the provisions of this title
13 and regulations issued pursuant to this title for so long as he or she so desires; provided, however,
14 that the man or woman, having once made application for this license, shall not again be required
15 to appear before the licensing authority to present his or her papers.

16 (d) A freshwater fishing license is not required of any blind person. For the purposes of
17 this section, a person is blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the
18 better eye with correcting lenses or if his or her visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is
19 accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual field
20 subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees (20°).

21 (e) Every resident man or woman over the age of sixty-five (65) years is entitled, subject
22 to the provisions of ~~this title and the regulations issued pursuant to this title~~ [§ 20-2-2\(b\)](#), to receive
23 a special permanent license to hunt or fish or both in this state for which there is no fee.

24 (f) Any man or woman who is one hundred percent (100%) permanently disabled may
25 apply to receive a license to fish in this state, and upon presentation of a proof of his or her disability
26 as prescribed by the department of environmental management, receive, without the payment of
27 any license fee, a continuing special form of license authorizing the man or woman to fish in this
28 state for so long as he or she so desires; provided, however, that the man or woman, having once
29 made application for this license, shall not again be required to appear before the licensing authority
30 to present his or her papers.

31 (g) The director may, by regulation, designate no more than two (2) days in each year,
32 which may or may not be consecutive, during which residents and nonresidents may, without
33 having a license and without payment of any fee, exercise the privileges of a holder of a freshwater
34 fishing license. These persons are subject to all other limitations, restrictions, conditions, laws,

1 rules, and regulations applicable to the holder of a freshwater fishing license.

2 (h) For the purpose of this section, "man or woman who is one hundred percent (100%)
3 permanently disabled" means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment and is
4 receiving:

5 (1) Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits (SSDI);

6 (2) Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI).

7 All licenses that are issued to persons who qualify pursuant to this subsection shall be
8 issued without the requirement of the payment of a fee and shall expire annually on February 28 of
9 each year. Persons seeking the issuance or reissuance of licenses shall be required to present
10 documentation establishing that the applicant is qualified, or remains qualified, pursuant to this
11 subsection.

12 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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1 This act would exempt anyone age sixty-five (65) or older from the fishing license fee and
2 application.

3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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