
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 1192

Brief Description: Regarding license fees under Title 77 RCW for veterans with disabilities.

Sponsors: Representatives Short, Blake, Takko, Taylor, Kretz, Crouse, Springer, Chandler, Ryu and Morrell.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Allows veterans with disabilities who are residents of other states to purchase hunting and fishing licenses at the reduced rates offered to veterans with disabilities who live in Washington.
- Provides discretionary authority to the existing advisory committee for the interests of hunters and fishers with disabilities to reach out to other states in an effort to promote the discounted opportunities for veterans with disabilities in Washington and collaborate with other states in an effort to encourage similar opportunities for Washington's veterans with disabilities when they hunt or fish in other states.

Hearing Date: 1/30/13

Staff: Jason Callahan (786-7117).

Background:

Discounted license sales

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is responsible for issuing hunting and fishing licenses at fees that are set in statute for each license type. These fees generally have a set amount for an adult state resident, and then an elevated price for a non-state resident and a reduced price for a youth participant (15 years old for fishing; under 16 years old for hunting).

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not a part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

Reduced license prices are also available to certain individuals with disabilities. These individuals may receive a fishing license for \$5 and any of the various state hunting licenses for the price that is charged to a youth participant for that license.

To qualify for one of these reduced rates, the individual must be a Washington resident and satisfy one of the following criteria:

- be an honorably-discharged veteran who is at least 65 years old and who has a service-related disability of any kind;
- be an honorably-discharged veteran of any age and who has a 30 percent or greater service-related disability; or
- have, regardless of military service, a disability that results in the permanent use of a wheelchair; results in blindness or another visual impairment; or have a developmental disability.

Advisory committee for the interests of hunters and fishers with disabilities

The 2001 Legislature created an advisory committee to the Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission) that generally represents the interests hunters and fishers with disabilities. These interests include special hunts, modified sporting equipment, access to public lands, and increased hunting and fishing opportunities. The seven members of the advisory committee are appointed by the Commission and are comprised of individuals with disabilities representing the six Department of Fish and Wildlife administrative units, and one member appointed at large.

Summary of Bill:

The reduced hunting and fishing license prices available to honorably discharged Washington resident military veterans are extended to residents of other states. To qualify, the non-state resident hunter or fisher must satisfy the same requirements for a discounted rate that state residents must satisfy. These requirements are being an honorably-discharged veteran of the United States armed forces and being either:

- age 65 or older with a service-related disability of any kind; or
- any age, with a 30 percent or greater service-related disability.

The members of the existing advisory committee for the interests of hunters and fishers with disabilities are given the discretionary authority to, in the course of their service, to reach out to other states in an effort to promote the discounted opportunities for veterans with disabilities in Washington and collaborate with other states in an effort to encourage similar opportunities for Washington's veterans with disabilities when they hunt or fish in other states.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect 90 days after adjournment of the session in which the bill is passed.