
**Agriculture & Natural Resources
Committee**

HB 2526

Brief Description: Reducing the number of days that a person must maintain a permanent place of abode in Washington before qualifying as a state resident for the purposes of Title 77 RCW.

Sponsors: Representatives McCaslin, Blake, Buys, Muri, Griffey, Goodman, Hargrove, Reykdal, Gregerson, Klippert, Kilduff, Hayes, Van De Wege, Shea and Stanford.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Changes, from 90 days to 30 days, the amount of time a person must maintain a permanent place of residence within the state for the purposes of obtaining a hunting or fishing license.

Hearing Date: 1/27/16

Staff: Rebecca Lewis (786-7339).

Background:

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 are a set amount for an adult state resident, an elevated rate for a non-state resident, and a reduced rate for youth. Reduced-rate licenses are also available to individuals with certain disabilities and to certain veterans. In order to qualify for license fees set for state residents, a person must have maintained a permanent place of residence within the state for at least 90 days immediately before applying. Individuals licensed to hunt or fish as a resident in another state or country, or receiving resident benefits of another state or country, do not qualify as state residents. A person must also establish, by formal evidence, intent to continue residing in the state.

There are a number of ways to demonstrate permanent residency in the state including:

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- the use of a Washington address for federal or state tax purposes;
- designation of Washington as the person's residence for obtaining eligibility to hold public office or for judicial actions;
- demonstrating that the person is a registered voter in Washington; or
- demonstrating that the person is a custodial parent with a child attending prekindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, or high school in Washington.

A person can demonstrate intent to continue residing in Washington if they have:

- a valid Washington driver's license or identification card; or
- registered their vehicle or vehicles in Washington.

Members of the United States armed forces qualify for resident license rates without meeting the 90-day requirement if they are either temporarily stationed in Washington on predeployment orders, or active duty nonretired members permanently stationed in Washington. A copy of the member's military orders, state of legal residence certificate, or enlistment or reenlistment documents are required as proof of their status. Spouses and children of such military members also qualify.

Summary of Bill:

The amount of time a person must permanently reside in the state to qualify for resident hunting and fishing license fees is changed from 90 days to 30 days. The WDFW may not refund or adjust the price of licenses purchased prior to April 1, 2017.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on April 1, 2017.