

# SENATE BILL REPORT

## ESHB 1351

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As Reported by Senate Committee On:  
Natural Resources & Parks, February 24, 2016

**Title:** An act relating to license fees for national guard members under Title 77 RCW.

**Brief Description:** Concerning license fees for national guard members under Title 77 RCW.

**Sponsors:** House Committee on Agriculture & Natural Resources (originally sponsored by Representatives Blake, Harris, DeBolt and Stanford).

**Brief History:** Passed House: 2/17/16, 97-0.

**Committee Activity:** Natural Resources & Parks: 2/24/16, 2/24/16 [DPA, DNP, w/oRec].

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### SENATE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS

**Majority Report:** Do pass as amended.

Signed by Senators Pearson, Chair; Dangel, Vice Chair; Jayapal, Ranking Member; Fraser and Warnick.

**Minority Report:** Do not pass.

Signed by Senator Chase.

**Minority Report:** That it be referred without recommendation.

Signed by Senator Hewitt.

**Staff:** Curt Gavigan (786-7437)

**Background:** Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) Generally. DFW is responsible for issuing recreational hunting and fishing licenses at fees that are set in statute for each license type. In general, recreational licensing fees are a set amount for an adult state resident, an increased price for a non-state resident, and a reduced price for a youth hunter or fisher. For example, the statutory fee for a small game hunting license is \$35 for residents, \$165 for nonresidents, and \$15 for youth.

Reduced Rate Licenses. Reduced license prices are available to certain individuals with disabilities. These individuals may receive a combination 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.

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To qualify for one of these reduced rates, a person 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;
- have, regardless of military service, a disability that results in the permanent use of a wheelchair, or results in blindness or another visual impairment; or
- have a developmental disability.

**Summary of Bill:** The bill as referred to committee not considered.

**Summary of Bill (Recommended Amendments):** State or national guard members are eligible for some hunting licenses at no cost if they are either:

- a full time state or national guard employee; or
- a state or national guard member whose status requires them to participate in drill training on a part time basis.

Qualifying individuals are eligible for a free small game hunting license, a migratory bird permit, and big game hunting licenses. To receive a license, individuals must submit a written application to be verified by DFW.

**EFFECT OF CHANGES MADE BY NATURAL RESOURCES & PARKS COMMITTEE (Recommended Amendments):**

- Removes contingent effective date language; and
- Provides eligibility to a state or national guard member who participates in drill training on a part-time basis.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

**Committee/Commission/Task Force Created:** No.

**Effective Date:** Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.

**Staff Summary of Public Testimony:** PRO: There is currently a lack of incentives for Washington National Guard members, and this bill will help to incentivize retention and recruitment of Washington National Guard members.

**Persons Testifying:** PRO: Daniel Dent, Kevin McMahan, National Guard Association of Washington.

**Persons Signed In To Testify But Not Testifying:** No one.