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**Agriculture & Natural Resources  
Committee**

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**SB 5862**

**Brief Description:** Concerning hunting and fishing licenses for nonresident college students.

**Sponsors:** Senators Fortunato, McCune, Padden, Warnick and Wilson, L..

**Brief Summary of Bill**

- Provides that a student enrolled in an institution of higher education in Washington is eligible to purchase a hunting or fishing license at the same cost as a Washington resident.

**Hearing Date:** 2/16/24

**Staff:** Rebecca Lewis (786-7339).

**Background:**

The Department of Fish and Wildlife (DFW) is responsible for managing the state's fish and wildlife resources and establishing basic rules and regulations governing the time, place, manner, and methods used to harvest or enjoy fish and wildlife. As a part of this responsibility, the DFW issues licenses, tags, endorsements, and permits for hunting and fishing in Washington. Generally, there are resident, nonresident, and youth fees established in statute for each license.

Certain hunting and fishing licenses are available at reduced rates to disabled veterans and individuals with disabilities. Nonstate residents who meet certain criteria may purchase a license at the same prices as a nondisabled Washington resident. To qualify for these reduced rates, the individual must:

- be an honorably discharged veteran who is at least 65 years old and who has a service-related disability of any kind;

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- be an honorably discharged veteran of any age who has a 30 percent or greater service-related disability;
- have a disability that results in the permanent use of a wheelchair, blindness or another visual impairment; or
- have a developmental disability.

**Summary of Bill:**

Upon verification of eligibility, the DFW must issue a combination fishing license or any hunting license at the same cost charged to a nondisabled Washington resident to a full-time student who is enrolled in and attending an accredited institution of higher education in Washington for at least six months immediately prior to applying for a license. A student is deemed full-time under the rules of the educational institution the student is attending.

**Appropriation:** None.

**Fiscal Note:** Available.

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