
HOUSE BILL 2107

State of Washington

68th Legislature

2024 Regular Session

By Representatives Maycumber, Chapman, Rude, Volz, Ormsby, Dent, Sandlin, Doglio, and Kloba

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1 AN ACT Relating to enabling the preservation of cultural treaty
2 harvesting rights of Indian tribes by providing free licenses issued
3 under Title 77 RCW to tribal members; amending RCW 77.32.480; and
4 creating a new section.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds that hunting has
7 been an integral aspect of tribal life for generations, serving as a
8 cornerstone of cultural identity, spiritual connection, and survival.
9 Native communities in Washington have passed down the art of hunting
10 from elders to youth, instilling essential skills, knowledge, and
11 values associated with sustainable living and the responsible
12 stewardship of the land. The process of teaching hunting skills to
13 native children has been a time-honored tradition, fostering a deep
14 respect for nature and instilling a sense of responsibility for the
15 well-being of the community. This intergenerational transfer of
16 knowledge is not merely a survival skill but an essential component
17 of tribal heritage, preserving a way of life that has sustained
18 communities in harmony with the natural world for centuries. In the
19 Pacific Northwest, hunting has played a pivotal role in shaping the
20 history of tribal nations. The expertise of native hunters in
21 navigating the diverse ecosystems of the region has contributed

1 significantly to the sustenance and resilience of their communities.
2 Traditional hunting practices have not only provided a vital food
3 source but also served as a means of trade, fostering cultural
4 exchange and strengthening social bonds among tribes.

5 (2) Therefore, the legislature intends to provide free hunting
6 licenses to tribal members. In doing so, the legislature not only
7 honors the legacy of native hunters, but also contributes to the
8 continuity of traditional practices, ensuring that future generations
9 can inherit and carry forward the wisdom that hunting provides.

10 **Sec. 2.** RCW 77.32.480 and 2016 c 78 s 1 are each amended to read
11 as follows:

12 (1) Upon written application, a combination fishing license shall
13 be issued at the reduced rate of (~~(five dollars)~~) \$5 and all hunting
14 licenses shall be issued at the reduced rate of a youth hunting
15 license fee for the following individuals:

16 (a) A resident (~~(sixty-five)~~) 65 years old or older who is an
17 honorably discharged veteran of the United States armed forces having
18 a service-connected disability;

19 (b) A resident who is an honorably discharged veteran of the
20 United States armed forces with a (~~(thirty)~~) 30 percent or more
21 service-connected disability;

22 (c) A resident with a disability who permanently uses a
23 wheelchair;

24 (d) A resident who is blind or visually impaired; and

25 (e) A resident with a developmental disability as defined in RCW
26 71A.10.020 with documentation of the disability certified by a
27 physician licensed to practice in this state.

28 (2) Upon department verification of eligibility, a nonstate
29 resident veteran with a disability who otherwise satisfies the
30 criteria of subsection (1)(a) and (b) of this section must be issued
31 a combination fishing license or any hunting license at the same cost
32 charged to a nondisabled Washington resident for the same license.

33 (3) Upon written application and department verification, (~~(the~~
34 ~~following recreational hunting licenses must be issued at no cost~~
35 ~~to)) a small game hunting license under RCW 77.32.460(1), a
36 supplemental migratory bird permit under RCW 77.32.350, and a big
37 game hunting license under RCW 77.32.450 (1) and (2) must be issued
38 at no cost to the following individuals:~~

1 (a) An enrolled member of a federally recognized Indian tribe
2 with off-reservation hunting rights in Washington; and
3 (b) A resident member of the state guard or national guard, as
4 defined in RCW 38.04.010, as long as the state guard or national
5 guard member is: An active full-time state guard or national guard
6 employee; or a state guard or national guard member whose status
7 requires the state guard or national guard member to participate in
8 drill training on a part-time basis((÷
9 ~~(a) A small game hunting license under RCW 77.32.460(1);~~
10 ~~(b) A supplemental migratory bird permit under RCW 77.32.350; and~~
11 ~~(c) A big game hunting license under RCW 77.32.450 (1) and (2)).~~

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