

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled

House Bill 4 (Delegates Simonaire and Metzgar)
Environment and Transportation Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**Hunting and Fishing Licenses - Active Military, Former Prisoners of War, and
Disabled Veterans**

This bill authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to issue a lifetime complimentary angler's or sport fishing license to an out-of-state former prisoner of war or 100% service-connected disabled American veteran if the person's state of residence extends similar, reciprocal privileges. Persons issued a lifetime complimentary angler's license under that authorization are also exempt from a requirement to purchase a trout stamp in order to fish or possess trout in certain areas. The bill also makes existing authorizations for DNR to issue lifetime complimentary hunter's licenses to Maryland residents and out-of-state former prisoners of war and 100% service-connected disabled American veterans subject to competency in firearms and hunter safety requirements. The bill establishes a related reporting requirement for DNR.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2017, and terminates June 30, 2020.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: DNR can implement the bill with existing budgeted resources. The bill is not expected to materially affect State license fee revenues.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: DNR must report to the Governor and the General Assembly, by December 31, 2019, on (1) the availability, in other states, of complimentary hunting and fishing licenses to Maryland residents who are former prisoners of war and 100% service-connected disabled American veterans; (2) the number of such licenses issued to Maryland residents; and (3) the number of complimentary hunting and fishing licenses issued by DNR to out-of-state former prisoners of war and 100% service-connected disabled American veterans.

Current Law: DNR is authorized to issue a lifetime complimentary angler's, Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing, or hunter's license to a Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or a 100% service-connected disabled American veteran. The department, however, is only authorized to issue a lifetime complimentary *hunter's* license to an out-of-state person who certifies that they are a former prisoner of war or a 100% service-connected disabled American veteran, if the person's state of residence extends similar, reciprocal privileges.

A holder of a lifetime complimentary angler's license for former prisoners of war or 100% service-connected disabled American veterans is exempt from a requirement that a person obtain a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license in order to fish or possess trout in certain areas established by DNR by regulation.

Generally, a person may not procure a hunting license without producing a certificate of competency in firearms and hunter safety, unless the person held a hunting license prior to July 1, 1977.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: Although designated as a cross file, SB 46 (Senator Simonaire, *et al.* - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs) is not identical.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Veterans Affairs; Department of Legislative Services

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