

HOUSE BILL 715

M2

(4lr1496)

ENROLLED BILL

— *Environment and Transportation/Education, Energy, and the Environment* —

Introduced by **Delegates Griffith, Adams, Allen, Anderton, Arian, Baker, Bouchat, Buckel, Chisholm, Ciliberti, Fair, Ghrist, Grammer, Hartman, Hinebaugh, Hornberger, Howard, Hutchinson, Jacobs, D. Jones, Kipke, R. Long, Mangione, McComas, Miller, T. Morgan, Munoz, Nawrocki, Pippy, Reilly, Rogers, Rose, Schmidt, Stonko, Tomlinson, ~~and Valentine~~ Valentine, and Guyton**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

Proofreader.

Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

_____ day of _____ at _____ o'clock, _____ M.

Speaker.

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps – Complimentary Licenses and**
3 **Stamp Exemption – Veterans Determined to Be Unemployable**

4 FOR the purpose of authorizing the Department of Natural Resources to issue certain
5 complimentary fishing and hunting licenses to certain veterans who the U.S.
6 Department of Veterans Affairs determines are unemployable; exempting certain
7 veterans who the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines are unemployable
8 from the requirement to obtain a trout stamp; and generally relating to fishing and
9 hunting licenses and trout stamps.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.

Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
 2 Article – Natural Resources
 3 Section 4–607, 4–614(a), 4–745(e), and 10–303(a)
 4 Annotated Code of Maryland
 5 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

6 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
 7 Article – Natural Resources
 8 Section 4–745(a)(1)
 9 Annotated Code of Maryland
 10 (2023 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

11 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
 12 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

13 **Article – Natural Resources**

14 4–607.

15 (a) (1) The Department may issue annually a complimentary angler’s license
 16 to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game
 17 and fish department of any other state.

18 (2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to
 19 any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is [a]:

20 (I) A former prisoner of war;

21 (II) AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
 22 VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or

23 (III) A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

24 (3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to
 25 an out-of-state person [who]:

26 (I) WHO certifies that the person is [a]:

27 1. A former prisoner of war;

28 2. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
 29 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

30 3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if
 31 the person’s]; AND

1 (ii) WHOSE state of residence extends similar privileges to former
2 prisoners of war, AMERICAN VETERANS WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
3 AFFAIRS DETERMINES ARE UNEMPLOYABLE, or 100% service connected disabled
4 American veterans of this State ~~THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS~~
5 ~~PARAGRAPH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

6 (b) Not more than 20 complimentary angler's licenses for each state other than
7 Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

8 (c) A complimentary angler's license is not transferable and shall be issued
9 without a fee.

10 (d) For the purposes of this section, "former prisoner of war" means a person who,
11 while serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly
12 detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile
13 force, during a period of armed conflict.

14 4-614.

15 (a) (1) The Department shall adopt regulations to establish fishing areas
16 where a trout stamp is required.

17 (2) Except as provided in paragraph (3) of this subsection, a person may
18 not fish or possess trout in an area established in paragraph (1) of this subsection unless
19 the person first obtains a trout stamp in addition to an angler's license.

20 (3) A trout stamp is not required of the following:

21 (i) A holder of a current resident consolidated senior sport fishing
22 license issued under § 4-216 of this title;

23 (ii) A holder of a lifetime complimentary angler's license [for 100%
24 service connected disabled American veterans or former prisoners of war] issued under §
25 4-607(a)(2) or (3) of this subtitle;

26 (iii) A person authorized by a disability exemption issued under §
27 4-217 of this title;

28 (iv) Any resident serving in the armed forces of the United States
29 while on leave in the State, during the resident's leave period, if, while angling, the resident
30 possesses a copy of the resident's official leave order; or

31 (v) A person under 16 years of age.

32 (4) The stamp may be obtained from the Department or an authorized
33 agent of the Department.

1 4-745.

2 (a) (1) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d) of this section and § 4-217
3 of this title, a person may not fish for finfish in the Chesapeake Bay or in its tributaries up
4 to tidal boundaries or in State waters of the Atlantic Ocean and the Atlantic coastal bays
5 and their tributaries without first obtaining a Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing
6 license or registration issued under subsection (d)(3) of this section and possessing the
7 license or registration.

8 (e) (1) In this subsection, "former prisoner of war" means a person who, while
9 serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly
10 detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile
11 force, during a period of armed conflict.

12 (2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary Chesapeake Bay
13 and coastal sport fishing license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident
14 is [a]:

15 (I) A former prisoner of war;

16 (II) AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
17 VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

18 (III) A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

19 (3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary Chesapeake Bay
20 and coastal sport fishing license to an out-of-state person [who]:

21 (I) WHO certifies that the person is [a]:

22 1. A former prisoner of war;

23 2. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
24 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

25 3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if
26 the person's]; AND

27 (II) WHOSE state of residence extends similar privileges to former
28 prisoners of war, AMERICAN VETERANS WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS
29 AFFAIRS DETERMINES ARE UNEMPLOYABLE, or 100% service connected disabled
30 American veterans of this State] ~~THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ITEM (I) OF THIS~~
31 ~~PARAGRAPH PARAGRAPH (2) OF THIS SUBSECTION.~~

1 (4) A complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license is
2 not transferable.

3 (5) The Department may issue annually a complimentary Chesapeake Bay
4 and coastal sport fishing license to the President of the United States, the governor of any
5 state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state.

6 (6) Not more than 20 complimentary Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport
7 fishing licenses for each state other than Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

8 10-303.

9 (a) (1) The Department annually may issue a complimentary hunting license
10 to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, or an official or an
11 enforcement officer of the game and fish management agency of another state which
12 reciprocally offers complimentary hunting licenses.

13 (2) (i) Subject to the requirements of § 10-301.1 of this subtitle, the
14 Department may issue a lifetime complimentary hunting license to a Maryland resident
15 who certifies that the resident is [a]:

16 1. A former prisoner of war;

17 2. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
18 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or

19 3. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran.

20 (ii) Subject to the requirements of § 10-301.1 of this subtitle, the
21 Department may issue a lifetime complimentary hunting license to an out-of-state person
22 [who]:

23 1. WHO certifies that the person is [a]:

24 A. A former prisoner of war;

25 B. AN AMERICAN VETERAN WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT
26 OF VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES IS UNEMPLOYABLE; or [a]

27 C. A 100% service connected disabled American veteran [if
28 the person's]; AND

29 2. WHOSE state of residence extends similar privileges to
30 ~~f~~former prisoners of war, AMERICAN VETERANS WHO THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
31 VETERANS AFFAIRS DETERMINES ARE UNEMPLOYABLE, or 100% service connected

1 disabled American veterans of this State] ~~THE INDIVIDUALS SPECIFIED IN ITEM 1 OF~~
2 ~~THIS SUBPARAGRAPH SUBPARAGRAPH (I) OF THIS PARAGRAPH.~~

3 (3) A complimentary license is not transferable.

4 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
5 1, 2024.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.