



Wes Moore, Governor
Aruna Miller, Lt. Governor
Josh Kurtz, Secretary
David Goshorn, Deputy Secretary

February 21, 2024

BILL NUMBER: House Bill 715 – First Reader

SHORT TITLE: Fishing and Hunting Licenses and Trout Stamps - Complimentary Licenses and Stamp Exemption - Veterans Determined to Be Unemployable

DEPARTMENT’S POSITION: SUPPORT

EXPLANATION OF DEPARTMENT’S POSITION

The agency supports House Bill 715. Although there is a potential small negative fiscal impact to the agency, by including individuals who are not 100% service connected disabled veterans, but are 100% unemployable due to their service connected disability, it clarifies an often confusing difference between types of service connected disabled veterans applying for the complimentary license. The agency is familiar with the paperwork related to both classifications from the U.S. military and can easily make adjustments in our licensing system to accommodate the change.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The agency does issue complimentary licenses to former prisoners of war, 100% service connected disabled American veterans, certain government individuals such as the President of the United States and state governors. Additionally, the state has free fishing areas

BILL EXPLANATION

The bill would make recreational fishing licenses free veterans who are deemed unemployable due to their service related disability.

Contact: Dylan Behler, Director, Legislative and Constituent Services
dylan.behler@maryland.gov ♦ 410-260-8113 (office) ♦ 443-924-0891 (cell)