

2018 -- H 7779

LC004762

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO FISH AND WILDLIFE -- LICENSING

Introduced By: Representative Susan R. Donovan

Date Introduced: February 28, 2018

Referred To: House Corporations

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Sections 20-2-2 and 20-2-31 of the General Laws in Chapter 20-2 entitled
2 "Licensing" are hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **20-2-2. Issuance of licenses.**

4 ~~The authorized agent of any city or town and any~~ Any person or corporation appointed by
5 the director as provided in § 20-2-1 shall, upon the application of any person entitled to receive a
6 license under this chapter and upon payment of the specified license fee, register and issue to that
7 person a license, either printed or displayed electronically on a mobile device, so long as the
8 certificate provides all of the information requested in the data fields identified by the department.
9 The certificate shall bear the name, age, occupation, place of residence, signature, and identifying
10 description of the registrant and shall authorize the registrant to fish or shellfish, or to pursue,
11 hunt, and kill game in the state of Rhode Island during those seasons and in those manners and
12 according to those conditions, as shall be provided by law; provided, however, that these
13 authorized agents shall not have authority to issue lobster, commercial shellfish, or commercial
14 fishing licenses of any kind.

15 **20-2-31. Hunting and fishing licenses -- Exceptions.**

16 (a) Every valid license to hunt or fish in this state that is held by any resident of this state
17 upon joining the armed forces or the merchant marine of the United States is hereby extended and
18 is in force and valid until six (6) months following the termination of his or her service.

19 (b) Every member of the armed forces or of the merchant marine of the United States

1 may hunt or fish in this state if that person procures a hunting or fishing license issued by the
2 state of Rhode Island, the fee for which is that charged for a resident civilian.

3 (c) Every man or woman who was a part of the armed forces of the United States
4 government and is now a one hundred percent (100%) disabled veteran, and any man or woman
5 who is one hundred percent (100%) permanently disabled, is entitled, subject to the provisions of
6 this title, to receive a license to hunt and/or fish in this state; and upon the presentation of his or
7 her necessary military discharge identification and/or disability papers, as prescribed by the
8 department of environmental management, shall, at the discretion of the licensing authority,
9 receive, without the payment of any license fee, a continuing special form of license authorizing
10 the man or woman to hunt and/or fish in this state in accordance with the provisions of this title
11 and regulations issued pursuant to this title for so long as he or she so desires; provided, however,
12 that the man or woman, having once made application for this license, shall not again be required
13 to appear before the licensing authority to present his or her papers.

14 (d) A freshwater fishing license is not required of any blind person. For the purposes of
15 this section, a person is blind only if his or her central visual acuity does not exceed 20/200 in the
16 better eye with correcting lenses or if his or her visual acuity is greater than 20/200 but is
17 accompanied by a limitation in the fields of vision such that the widest diameter of the visual
18 field subtends an angle no greater than twenty degrees (20°).

19 (e) Every resident man or woman over the age of sixty-five (65) years is entitled, subject
20 to the provisions of this title and the regulations issued pursuant to this title, to receive a special
21 permanent license to hunt and/or fish in this state for which there is no fee.

22 (f) Any man or woman who is one hundred percent (100%) permanently disabled may
23 apply ~~to the clerk of any city or town~~ to receive a license to fish in this state, and upon
24 presentation of a proof of his or her disability as prescribed by the department of environmental
25 management, receive, without the payment of any license fee, a continuing special form of
26 license authorizing the man or woman to fish in this state for so long as he or she so desires;
27 provided, however, that the man or woman, having once made application for this license, shall
28 not again be required to appear before the licensing authority to present his or her papers.

29 (g) The director may, by regulation, designate no more than two (2) days in each year,
30 which may or may not be consecutive, during which residents and nonresidents may, without
31 having a license and without payment of any fee, exercise the privileges of a holder of a
32 freshwater fishing license. These persons are subject to all other limitations, restrictions,
33 conditions, laws, rules, and regulations applicable to the holder of a freshwater fishing license.

34 (h) For the purpose of this section, "man or woman who is one hundred percent (100%)

1 permanently disabled" means an individual who has a physical or mental impairment and is
2 receiving:

3 (1) Social Security Disability Insurance Benefits (SSDI);

4 (2) Supplemental Security Income benefits (SSI).

5 All licenses that are issued to persons who qualify pursuant to this subsection shall be
6 issued without the requirement of the payment of a fee and shall expire annually on February 28
7 of each year. Persons seeking the issuance or reissuance of licenses shall be required to present
8 documentation establishing that the applicant is qualified, or remains qualified, pursuant to this
9 subsection.

10 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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- 1 This act would remove the requirement that hunting and fishing licenses may be issued
- 2 only by town and city clerks.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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