



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

HB3677

Introduced 2/17/2023, by Rep. Harry Benton

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

515 ILCS 5/20-45
520 ILCS 5/3.2

from Ch. 56, par. 20-45
from Ch. 61, par. 3.2

Amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Provides that residents of this State may obtain a 5-year fishing license. Provides that the fee for a 5-year fishing license is \$62.50. Provides that for residents age 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year fishing license. Provides that for resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year fishing license. Provides that residents of this State may obtain a 5-year sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as residents holding a license and to the same hunting privileges as residents holding a license to hunt all species under the Wildlife Code. Provides that the 5-year sportsmen's combination license fee shall be \$112.50. Provides that a sportsmen's combination license shall not be issued to any individual who would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting license separately. Provides that for residents age 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year sportsmen's combination license. Provides that for resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year sportsmen's combination license. Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that residents of this State may obtain a 5-year hunting license to hunt all species for \$52. Provides that for residents age 65 or older and resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year hunting license.

LRB103 28194 RLC 54573 b

1 AN ACT concerning fishing and hunting.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fish and Aquatic Life Code is amended by
5 changing Section 20-45 as follows:

6 (515 ILCS 5/20-45) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-45)

7 Sec. 20-45. License fees for residents. Fees for licenses
8 for residents of the State of Illinois shall be as follows:

9 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, for
10 sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
11 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, the fee is
12 \$14.50 for individuals 16 to 64 years old, one-half of the
13 current fishing license fee for individuals age 65 or
14 older, and, commencing with the 2012 license year,
15 one-half of the current fishing license fee for resident
16 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
17 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
18 the United States as an active duty member of the United
19 States Armed Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or the
20 Reserves of the United States Armed Forces. Veterans must
21 provide to the Department acceptable verification of their
22 service. The Department shall establish by administrative
23 rule the procedure by which such verification of service

1 shall be made to the Department for the purpose of issuing
2 fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

3 (a-3) Except as otherwise provided in this Section,
4 for sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
5 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, residents
6 of this State may obtain a 5-year fishing license. The fee
7 for a 5-year fishing license is \$62.50. For residents age
8 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
9 5-year fishing license. For resident veterans of the
10 United States Armed Forces after returning from service
11 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United
12 States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year
13 fishing license. Veterans must provide to the Department,
14 at one of the Department's 5 regional offices,
15 verification of their service. The Department shall
16 establish what constitutes suitable verification of
17 service for the purpose of issuing 5-year fishing licenses
18 to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

19 (a-5) The fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be
20 \$1 for an annual license and \$4 for a 5-year license for
21 residents over 75 years of age.

22 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing
23 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee
24 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the
25 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device
26 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman

1 as follows:

2 (1) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
3 thereof, of seine the fee is \$18. For each minnow
4 seine, minnow trap, or net for commercial purposes the
5 fee is \$20.

6 (2) For each device to fish with a 100 hook trot
7 line device, basket trap, hoop net, or dip net the fee
8 is \$3.

9 (3) When used in the waters of Lake Michigan, for
10 the first 2000 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, of
11 gill net the fee is \$10; and for each 1000 additional
12 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, the fee is \$10.
13 These fees shall apply to all gill nets in use in the
14 water or on drying reels on the shore.

15 (4) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
16 thereof, of gill net or trammel net the fee is \$18.

17 (c) Residents of this ~~the~~ State ~~of Illinois~~ may obtain
18 a sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the
19 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
20 residents holding a license as described in subsection (a)
21 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
22 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
23 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No
24 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to any
25 individual who would be ineligible for either the fishing
26 or hunting license separately. The sportsmen's combination

1 license fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or
2 older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
3 sportsmen's combination license. For resident veterans of
4 the United States Armed Forces after returning from
5 service abroad or mobilization by the President of the
6 United States as an active duty member of the United
7 States Armed Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or the
8 Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, the fee,
9 commencing with the 2012 license year, is one-half of the
10 fee charged for a sportsmen's combination license.
11 Veterans must provide to the Department acceptable
12 verification of their service. The Department shall
13 establish by administrative rule the procedure by which
14 such verification of service shall be made to the
15 Department for the purpose of issuing sportsmen's
16 combination licenses to resident veterans at a reduced
17 fee.

18 (c-5) Residents of this State may obtain a 5-year
19 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the
20 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
21 residents holding a license as described in subsection
22 (a-3) and to the same hunting privileges as residents
23 holding a license to hunt all species as described in
24 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. A 5-year sportsmen's
25 combination license shall not be issued to any individual
26 who would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting

1 license separately. The 5-year sportsmen's combination
2 license fee shall be \$112.50. For residents age 65 or
3 older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a 5-year
4 sportsmen's combination license. For resident veterans of
5 the United States Armed Forces after returning from
6 service abroad or mobilization by the President of the
7 United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
8 5-year sportsmen's combination license. Veterans must
9 provide to the Department, at one of the Department's 5
10 regional offices, verification of their service. The
11 Department shall establish what constitutes suitable
12 verification of service for the purpose of issuing 5-year
13 sportsmen's combination licenses to resident veterans at a
14 reduced fee.

15 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices
16 as defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as
17 defined in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does
18 not exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon
19 or inland trout stamp. The licenses provided for by this
20 subsection are not required for residents of the State of
21 Illinois who have obtained the license provided for in
22 subsection (a) or (a-3) of this Section.

23 (e) All residents before using any commercial mussel
24 device shall obtain a commercial mussel license, the fee
25 for which shall be \$50.

26 (f) Residents of this State, upon establishing

1 residency as required by the Department, may obtain a
2 lifetime hunting or fishing license or lifetime
3 sportsmen's combination license which shall entitle the
4 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
5 residents holding a license as described in paragraph (a)
6 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
7 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
8 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No lifetime
9 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to or
10 retained by any individual who would be ineligible for
11 either the fishing or hunting license separately, either
12 upon issuance, or in any year a violation would subject an
13 individual to have either or both fishing or hunting
14 privileges rescinded. The lifetime hunting and fishing
15 license fees shall be as follows:

16 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing
17 license fee.

18 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting
19 license fee.

20 (3) Lifetime sportsmen's combination license: 30 x
21 the current sportsmen's combination license fee.

22 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall
23 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department
24 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use
25 of lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime
26 license issued under this Section for violations of those

1 rules or regulations or other provisions under this Code or
2 the Wildlife Code, or a violation of the United States Code
3 that involves the taking, possessing, killing, harvesting,
4 transportation, selling, exporting, or importing any fish or
5 aquatic life protected by this Code or the taking, possessing,
6 killing, harvesting, transportation, selling, exporting, or
7 importing any fauna protected by the Wildlife Code when any
8 part of the United States Code violation occurred in Illinois.
9 Individuals under 16 years of age who possess a lifetime
10 hunting or sportsmen's combination license shall have in their
11 possession, while in the field, a certificate of competency as
12 required under Section 3.2 of the Wildlife Code. Any lifetime
13 license issued under this Section shall not exempt individuals
14 from obtaining additional stamps or permits required under the
15 provisions of this Code or the Wildlife Code. Individuals
16 required to purchase additional stamps shall sign the stamps
17 and have them in their possession while fishing or hunting
18 with a lifetime license. All fees received from the issuance
19 of lifetime licenses shall be deposited in the Fish and
20 Wildlife Endowment Fund.

21 Except for licenses issued under subsection (a-3), (c-5),
22 or (e) of this Section, all licenses provided for in this
23 Section shall expire on March 31 of each year, except that the
24 license provided for in subsection (d) of this Section shall
25 expire 24 hours after the effective date and time listed on the
26 face of the license. Licenses issued under subsection (a-3) or

1 (c-5) shall expire on March 31 of the 4th year after the year
2 in which the license is issued.

3 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
4 license provided for in subsection (a), (a-3), or (d) of this
5 Section shall be fined according to the provisions of Section
6 20-35 of this Code.

7 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
8 licenses provided for in subsections (b) and (e) of this
9 Section shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

10 (g) For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
11 verification" means official documentation from the Department
12 of Defense or the appropriate Major Command showing
13 mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including: (i) a
14 DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of Military
15 Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard, (iii) a
16 letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members of the
17 Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major Command
18 covering Illinois for active duty members, (v) personnel
19 records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any other
20 documentation that the Department, by administrative rule,
21 deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or service
22 abroad.

23 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
24 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
25 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
26 duty service in territories and possessions of the United

1 States.

2 (Source: P.A. 102-780, eff. 5-13-22; 102-837, eff. 5-13-22;
3 revised 7-26-22.)

4 Section 10. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing
5 Section 3.2 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/3.2) (from Ch. 61, par. 3.2)

7 Sec. 3.2. Hunting license; application; instruction.
8 Before the Department or any county, city, village, township,
9 incorporated town clerk or his duly designated agent or any
10 other person authorized or designated by the Department to
11 issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any
12 person, the person shall file his application with the
13 Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on a
14 form provided by the Department and further give definite
15 proof of identity and place of legal residence. Each clerk
16 designating agents to issue licenses and stamps shall furnish
17 the Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the
18 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Each clerk or his
19 duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell licenses and
20 stamps only within the territorial area for which he was
21 elected or appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized
22 to furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by any other
23 business establishment. Each application shall be executed and
24 sworn to and shall set forth the name and description of the

1 applicant and place of residence.

2 No hunting license shall be issued to any person born on or
3 after January 1, 1980 unless he presents the person authorized
4 to issue the license evidence that he has held a hunting
5 license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a
6 prior year, or a certificate of competency as provided in this
7 Section. Persons under 18 years of age may be issued a Lifetime
8 Hunting or Sportsmen's Combination License as provided under
9 Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code but shall not
10 be entitled to hunt alone, without the supervision of an adult
11 age 21 or older, unless they have a certificate of competency
12 as provided in this Section and the certificate is in their
13 possession while hunting.

14 The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize
15 personnel of the Department or certified volunteer instructors
16 to conduct courses, of not less than 10 hours in length, in
17 firearms and hunter safety, which may include training in bow
18 and arrow safety, at regularly specified intervals throughout
19 the State. Persons successfully completing the course shall
20 receive a certificate of competency. The Department of Natural
21 Resources may further cooperate with any reputable association
22 or organization in establishing courses if the organization
23 has as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the
24 handling of firearms or bow and arrow.

25 The Department of Natural Resources shall designate any
26 person found by it to be competent to give instruction in the

1 handling of firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. The
2 persons so appointed shall give the course of instruction and
3 upon the successful completion shall issue to the person
4 instructed a certificate of competency in the safe handling of
5 firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. No charge shall be
6 made for any course of instruction except for materials or
7 ammunition consumed. The Department of Natural Resources shall
8 furnish information on the requirements of hunter safety
9 education programs to be distributed free of charge to
10 applicants for hunting licenses by the persons appointed and
11 authorized to issue licenses. Funds for the conducting of
12 firearms and hunter safety courses shall be taken from the fee
13 charged for the Firearm Owners Identification Card.

14 The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species for a
15 resident of Illinois is \$12. For residents age 65 or older,
16 and, commencing with the 2012 license year, resident veterans
17 of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service
18 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States
19 as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
20 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United States
21 Armed Forces, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
22 hunting license to hunt all species for a resident of
23 Illinois. Veterans must provide to the Department acceptable
24 verification of their service. The Department shall establish
25 by administrative rule the procedure by which such
26 verification of service shall be made to the Department for

1 the purpose of issuing resident veterans hunting licenses at a
2 reduced fee. The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species
3 shall be \$1 for residents over 75 years of age. Nonresidents
4 shall be charged \$57 for a hunting license.

5 Residents of this State may obtain a 5-year hunting
6 license to hunt all species for \$52. For residents age 65 or
7 older and resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces
8 after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the
9 President of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee
10 charged for a 5-year hunting license to hunt all species for a
11 resident of this State. Veterans must provide to the
12 Department, at one of the Department's 5 regional offices,
13 verification of their service. The Department shall establish
14 what constitutes suitable verification of service for the
15 purpose of issuing resident veterans 5-year hunting licenses
16 at a reduced fee.

17 Nonresidents may be issued a nonresident hunting license
18 for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive days' hunting in the
19 State and shall be charged a fee of \$35.

20 A special nonresident hunting license authorizing a
21 nonresident to take game birds by hunting on a game breeding
22 and hunting preserve area only, established under Section
23 3.27, shall be issued upon proper application being made and
24 payment of a fee equal to that for a resident hunting license.
25 The expiration date of this license shall be on the same date
26 each year that game breeding and hunting preserve area

1 licenses expire.

2 Each applicant for a State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp,
3 regardless of his residence or other condition, shall pay a
4 fee of \$15 and shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State
5 Migratory Waterfowl Stamp shall be waived for residents over
6 75 years of age. Except as provided under Section 20-45 of the
7 Fish and Aquatic Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the
8 person or affixed to his license or permit in a space
9 designated by the Department for that purpose.

10 Each applicant for a State Habitat Stamp, regardless of
11 his residence or other condition, shall pay a fee of \$5 and
12 shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State Habitat Stamp shall
13 be waived for residents over 75 years of age. Except as
14 provided under Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life
15 Code, the stamp shall be signed by the person or affixed to his
16 license or permit in a space designated by the Department for
17 that purpose.

18 Nothing in this Section shall be construed as to require
19 the purchase of more than one State Habitat Stamp by any person
20 in any one license year.

21 The fees for State Pheasant Stamps and State Furbearer
22 Stamps shall be waived for residents over 75 years of age.

23 The Department shall furnish the holders of hunting
24 licenses and stamps with an insignia as evidence of possession
25 of license, or license and stamp, as the Department may
26 consider advisable. The insignia shall be exhibited and used

1 as the Department may order.

2 All other hunting licenses and all State stamps shall
3 expire upon March 31 of each year. Five-year hunting licenses
4 shall expire on March 31 of the 4th year after the year in
5 which the license is issued.

6 Every person holding any license, permit, or stamp issued
7 under the provisions of this Act shall have it in his
8 possession for immediate presentation for inspection to the
9 officers and authorized employees of the Department, any
10 sheriff, deputy sheriff, or any other peace officer making a
11 demand for it. This provision shall not apply to Department
12 owned or managed sites where it is required that all hunters
13 deposit their license, permit, or Firearm Owner's
14 Identification Card at the check station upon entering the
15 hunting areas.

16 For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
17 verification" means official documentation from the Department
18 of Defense or the appropriate Major Command showing
19 mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including: (i) a
20 DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of Military
21 Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard, (iii) a
22 letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members of the
23 Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major Command
24 covering Illinois for active duty members, (v) personnel
25 records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any other
26 documentation that the Department, by administrative rule,

1 deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or service
2 abroad.

3 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
4 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
5 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
6 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
7 States.

8 (Source: P.A. 101-81, eff. 7-12-19; 102-780, eff. 5-13-22.)