

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE BILL

No. 411 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY PENNYCUICK, BAKER, BARTOLOTTA AND COSTA,
FEBRUARY 21, 2023

REFERRED TO GAME AND FISHERIES, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated
2 Statutes, in fishing licenses, further providing for disabled
3 veterans and former prisoners of war and for deployed
4 Pennsylvania National Guard members and repealing provisions
5 relating to reserve component of armed forces members.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. Sections 2707(a) and (b) and 2707.1 heading and
9 (a) of Title 30 of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes are
10 amended to read:

11 § 2707. Disabled veterans and former prisoners of war.

12 (a) General rule for disabled veterans.--

13 [(1) Any disabled veteran who has a disability incurred
14 in any war or armed conflict which consists of the loss of
15 one or more limbs, or the loss of use of one or more limbs,
16 or total blindness, or who is 100% disabled as certified by
17 the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and who
18 meets the qualifications of section 2701 (relating to
19 resident fishing licenses), shall be issued a free resident

1 fishing license upon application to the commission or a
2 county treasurer. An application submitted by a disabled
3 veteran shall, in addition to any information required under
4 section 2701, contain a statement that the applicant is a war
5 or armed conflict veteran and that the qualifying disability
6 was service incurred. The issuing agent or the commission may
7 require the production of the discharge papers of the
8 applicant.]

9 (2) Any disabled veteran who has a service-connected
10 disability [incurred in any war or armed conflict and
11 possesses a disability] rating between 60% and 99% as
12 certified by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs
13 and who meets the qualifications of section 2701 (relating to
14 resident fishing licenses) shall be issued a resident fishing
15 license at the cost of \$1 upon application to the commission
16 or a county treasurer. An application submitted by a disabled
17 veteran shall, in addition to any information required under
18 section 2701, [contain a statement that the applicant is a
19 war or armed conflict veteran and that the qualifying
20 disability was service incurred. The issuing agent or the
21 commission may require the production of the discharge papers
22 of the applicant.] include a copy of the disability rating
23 determination letter from the United States Department of
24 Veterans Affairs.

25 * * *

26 (b) Lifetime licenses.--

27 (1) [If a disabled veteran who qualifies for issuance of
28 a free resident fishing license under subsection (a) (1)
29 presents documentation to show that the qualifying disability
30 is permanent, the] The commission or county treasurer shall

1 issue a free disabled veteran lifetime fishing license[.] to
2 a disabled veteran who:

3 (i) has a service-connected disability rating of
4 100%;

5 (ii) submits a copy of the disability rating
6 determination letter from the United States Department of
7 Veterans Affairs to the commission or county treasurer
8 stating that the disability rating of 100% is a
9 determination by the United States Department of Veterans
10 Affairs; and

11 (iii) meets the qualifications of section 2701.

12 (2) A disabled veteran who meets the qualifications
13 under subsection (a) or a former prisoner of war who meets
14 the qualifications of section 2701(b) shall be issued a
15 senior resident lifetime fishing license at the cost of \$1
16 upon application to the commission or a county treasurer.

17 * * *

18 § 2707.1. Deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members and
19 reserve component of armed forces members.

20 (a) Eligibility.--The commission or a county treasurer shall
21 issue one annual resident fishing license at a cost of \$1 to any
22 person eligible under section 2701 (relating to resident fishing
23 licenses) for the license who provides documentation that within
24 the previous 24 months the person was deployed [overseas] as a
25 member of the Pennsylvania [Army National Guard or Air National
26 Guard on active Federal service] National Guard or as a member
27 of the reserve component of the armed forces as defined in 51
28 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to definitions) for a period of 60
29 consecutive days or more or was released early from such service
30 because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of duty.

1 Only one [Pennsylvania National Guard] annual resident fishing
2 license under this section may be issued for each qualifying
3 deployment of a person applying for the license for the previous
4 24-month period.

5 * * *

6 Section 2. Section 2707.2 of Title 30 is repealed:

7 [§ 2707.2. Reserve component of armed forces members.]

8 (a) Eligibility.--The commission or a county treasurer shall
9 issue one annual resident fishing license at a cost of \$1 to any
10 person eligible for the license under section 2701 (relating to
11 resident fishing licenses) who provides documentation that
12 within the previous 24 months the person was deployed overseas
13 as a member of the reserve component of the armed forces
14 pursuant to 51 Pa.C.S. § 7301 (relating to definitions) for a
15 period of 60 consecutive days or more or was released early from
16 service because of an injury or disease incurred in the line of
17 duty. Only one fishing license under this section may be issued
18 for each qualifying deployment of a person applying for the
19 license.

20 (b) Regulations.--The commission may promulgate regulations
21 to implement this section.]

22 Section 3. This act shall take effect in 60 days.