

WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE

2023 REGULAR SESSION

Introduced

House Bill 2556

FISCAL
NOTE

By Delegates Brooks, Vance, Crouse, E. Pritt,

Chiarelli, Willis and Kirby

[Introduced January 16, 2023; Referred to the
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources
then Finance]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-27 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, all
2 relating to eliminating fees for hunting and fishing licenses for military retirees.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:

ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.

§20-2-27. Necessity for license.

1 (a) Except as otherwise provided by law, no resident who has reached his or her 15th
2 birthday and who has not reached his or her 65th birthday before January 1, 2012, and no
3 nonresident shall at any time take, hunt, pursue, trap for, kill or chase any wild animals, wild birds,
4 or fish for, take, kill or catch any fish, amphibians or aquatic life of any kind whatsoever in this state
5 without first having secured a license or permit and then only during the respective open seasons,
6 except that a nonresident who has not reached his or her 15th birthday may fish for, take, kill or
7 catch any fish, amphibians or aquatic life of any kind whatsoever in this state without first having
8 secured a license or permit. A person under the age of 15 years shall not hunt or chase any wild
9 animals or wild birds upon lands of another unless accompanied by a licensed adult.

10 (b) A resident or nonresident member of any club, organization, or association or persons
11 owning or leasing a game preserve or fish preserve, plant, or pond in this state shall not hunt or
12 fish therein without first securing a license or permit as required by law: *Provided*, That resident
13 landowners or their resident children, or bona fide resident tenants of land, may, without a permit
14 or license, hunt and fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with laws and rules
15 applying to such hunting and fishing unless the lands have been designated as a wildlife refuge or
16 preserve.

17 (c) Licenses and permits shall be of the kinds and classes set forth in this article and shall
18 be conditioned upon the payment of the fees established for the licenses and permits.

19 (d) Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, licenses and permits shall be provided to
20 all military retirees and National Guard retirees without payment of any fees upon the presentation
21 of documentation of military service and retirement.

22 ~~(d)~~ (e) The list of names, addresses and other contact information of all licensees compiled
23 and maintained by the division as a result of the sale and issuance of any resident or nonresident
24 licenses or stamps under this chapter is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information
25 Act, §29B-1-1, *et seq.*, of this code: *Provided*, That the records specified in this section shall be
26 available to all law-enforcement agencies and other governmental entities authorized to request or
27 receive such records.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to eliminate the fees for hunting and fishing licenses for military retirees.

Strike-throughs indicate language that would be stricken from a heading or the present law and underscoring indicates new language that would be added.