

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2024 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **House Bill 5376**

By Delegates Campbell, Cooper, Foggin, Ferrell,  
Miller, Butler, W. Hall, Dean, and Ward

[Introduced January 31, 2024; Referred to the  
Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources  
then Government Organization]

1 A BILL to amend and reenact §20-2-27 of the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, relating to  
2 wildlife resources; and allowing the children and grandchildren of a landowner in West  
3 Virginia to hunt and fish on the private land regardless of residency status without a permit  
4 or license, hunt and fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with laws  
5 and rules so long as a valid photographic identification is produced.

*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~~ may at any time take, hunt, pursue, trap for, kill or chase any wild animals, wild  
4 birds, or fish for, take, kill or catch any fish, amphibians or aquatic life of any kind whatsoever in this  
5 state without first having secured a license or permit and then only during the respective open  
6 seasons, except that a nonresident who has not reached his or her 15th birthday may fish for, take,  
7 kill or catch any fish, amphibians or aquatic life of any kind whatsoever in this state without first  
8 having secured a license or permit. A person under the age of 15 years ~~shall~~ may not hunt or  
9 chase any wild animals or wild birds upon lands of another unless accompanied by a licensed  
10 adult.

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

19 identification card as provided from the West Virginia State Police.

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

22 (d) 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 allow the children and grandchildren of a landowner in West Virginia to hunt and fish on such private land regardless of residency status without a permit or license, hunt and fish on their own land during open seasons in accordance with laws and rules so long as a valid photo ID is produced.

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