

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

**Introduced**

### **Senate Bill 198**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Senator Weld

[Introduced January 14, 2026; referred  
to the Committee on Natural Resources; and then to  
the Committee on Finance]

1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §20-2-63, relating to exempting certain persons from fees for hunting, fishing,  
3 and trapping licenses and permits; providing that fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping  
4 licenses and permits are waived for certain volunteer firefighters; including eligibility  
5 requirements; requiring compliance with all other requirements to obtain license; and  
6 granting rule-making authority.

*Be it enacted by the Legislature of West Virginia:*

**ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

**§20-2-63. Waiver of fees for municipal volunteer firefighters applying for hunting, trapping,**

and fishing licenses.

1 (a) For any person who serves as a municipal volunteer firefighter who would otherwise be  
2 required to have a license or permit to hunt, fish, or trap, the fee to obtain the license or permit that  
3 would otherwise be required by the director by legislative rules issued pursuant to §20-2-42 of this  
4 code is waived.

5 (b) To be eligible for this fee waiver, a person applying for a license or permit must submit  
6 an affidavit signed by the applicant's fire chief, stating that the applicant is a volunteer firefighter.

7 (c) Any person seeking a fee waiver must provide all other information required by the  
8 director for issuance of the license and must comply with all other provisions of law relating to the  
9 applicable license or permit that is sought.

10 (d) The director may propose rules for legislative approval in accordance with the  
11 provisions of §29A-3-1 *et seq.* of this code setting forth application and processing procedures.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to waive the fees for hunting, fishing, and trapping licenses  
or permits for individuals who are currently serving as municipal volunteer firefighters.

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