

# **WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATURE**

## **2026 REGULAR SESSION**

### **Introduced**

## **House Bill 4494**

**FISCAL  
NOTE**

By Delegates Butler, Cooper, Masters, B. Ward,  
Pinson, Brooks, Dean, Dillon, Ridenour, Jennings,  
and Dittman

[Introduced January 19, 2026; referred to the  
Committee on Government Organization]

- 1 A BILL to amend the Code of West Virginia, 1931, as amended, by adding a new section,  
2 designated §20-2-42aa, relating to providing an exemption for a non-resident landowner,  
3 their spouse and their children from the requirement of purchasing a non-resident hunting  
4 license while hunting on their land in this state.

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

## **ARTICLE 2. WILDLIFE RESOURCES.**

### **§20-2-42aa. Exemption for a non-resident landowner from purchasing a non-resident hunting license while hunting on their land in this state**

- 1 A non-resident landowner and the spouse and children living with the non-resident  
2 landowner may hunt on the property he or she owns in this state without a license: *Provided*, That  
3 the home state of the non-resident landowner permits West Virginia residents the same exemption  
4 on property that West Virginia residents own. Grandchildren of non-resident landowners shall not  
5 qualify for this exemption.

NOTE: The purpose of this bill is to provide an exemption for a non-resident landowner, their spouse and their children from the requirement of purchasing a non-resident hunting license while hunting on their land in this state.

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