



103RD GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2023 and 2024

SB2900

Introduced 1/26/2024, by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

515 ILCS 5/20-45	from Ch. 56, par. 20-45
520 ILCS 5/3.2	from Ch. 61, par. 3.2

Amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Provides that, for a resident who is serving in the Illinois National Guard, the 1-year fishing license fees are one-half of the ordinarily applicable 1-year fishing license fees beginning in license year 2025. Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that, for a resident who is serving in the Illinois National Guard, the 1-year hunting license fees are one-half of the ordinarily applicable 1-year hunting license fees beginning in license year 2025. Effective immediately.

LRB103 36558 JAG 66665 b

1 AN ACT concerning wildlife.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Fish and Aquatic Life Code is amended by
5 changing Section 20-45 as follows:

6 (515 ILCS 5/20-45) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-45)

7 Sec. 20-45. License fees for residents. Fees for licenses
8 for residents of the State of Illinois shall be as follows:

9 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, for
10 sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
11 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, the fee is
12 \$14.50 for individuals 16 to 64 years old, one-half of the
13 current fishing license fee for individuals age 65 or
14 older, ~~and, commencing with the 2012 license year,~~
15 one-half of the current fishing license fee for resident
16 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
17 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
18 the United States as an active duty member of the United
19 States Armed Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or the
20 Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, and,
21 commencing, with the 2025 license year, one-half of the
22 current fishing license fee for residents serving in the
23 Illinois National Guard. Residents serving in the Illinois

1 National Guard and veterans ~~Veterans~~ must provide to the
2 Department acceptable verification of their service. The
3 Department shall establish by administrative rule the
4 procedure by which such verification of service shall be
5 made to the Department for the purpose of issuing fishing
6 licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

7 (a-3) Except as otherwise provided in this Section,
8 for sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or
9 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, residents
10 of this State may obtain a 3-year fishing license. The fee
11 for a 3-year fishing license is 3 times the annual fee. For
12 residents age 65 or older, the fee is one half of the fee
13 charged for a 3-year fishing license. For resident
14 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
15 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
16 the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
17 for a 3-year fishing license. Veterans must provide to the
18 Department, per administrative rule, verification of their
19 service. The Department shall establish what constitutes
20 suitable verification of service for the purpose of
21 issuing 3-year fishing licenses to resident veterans at a
22 reduced fee.

23 (a-5) The fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be
24 \$1 for an annual license and 3 times the annual fee for a
25 3-year license for residents over 75 years of age.

26 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing

1 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee
2 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the
3 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device
4 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman
5 as follows:

6 (1) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
7 thereof, of seine the fee is \$18. For each minnow
8 seine, minnow trap, or net for commercial purposes the
9 fee is \$20.

10 (2) For each device to fish with a 100 hook trot
11 line device, basket trap, hoop net, or dip net the fee
12 is \$3.

13 (3) When used in the waters of Lake Michigan, for
14 the first 2000 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, of
15 gill net the fee is \$10; and for each 1000 additional
16 lineal feet, or fraction thereof, the fee is \$10.
17 These fees shall apply to all gill nets in use in the
18 water or on drying reels on the shore.

19 (4) For each 100 lineal yards, or fraction
20 thereof, of gill net or trammel net the fee is \$18.

21 (c) Residents of this State may obtain a sportsmen's
22 combination license that shall entitle the holder to the
23 same non-commercial fishing privileges as residents
24 holding a license as described in subsection (a) of this
25 Section and to the same hunting privileges as residents
26 holding a license to hunt all species as described in

1 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No sportsmen's
2 combination license shall be issued to any individual who
3 would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
4 license separately. The sportsmen's combination license
5 fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or older, the fee
6 is one-half of the fee charged for a sportsmen's
7 combination license. For resident veterans of the United
8 States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or
9 mobilization by the President of the United States as an
10 active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
11 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United
12 States Armed Forces, the fee, commencing with the 2012
13 license year, is one-half of the fee charged for a
14 sportsmen's combination license. Veterans must provide to
15 the Department acceptable verification of their service.
16 The Department shall establish by administrative rule the
17 procedure by which such verification of service shall be
18 made to the Department for the purpose of issuing
19 sportsmen's combination licenses to resident veterans at a
20 reduced fee.

21 (c-5) Residents of this State may obtain a 3-year
22 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the
23 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
24 residents holding a license as described in subsection
25 (a-3) and to the same hunting privileges as residents
26 holding a license to hunt all species as described in

1 Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. A 3-year sportsmen's
2 combination license shall not be issued to any individual
3 who would be ineligible for either the fishing or hunting
4 license separately. The 3-year sportsmen's combination
5 license fee shall be 3 times the annual fee. For residents
6 age 65 or older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for
7 a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. For resident
8 veterans of the United States Armed Forces after returning
9 from service abroad or mobilization by the President of
10 the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
11 for a 3-year sportsmen's combination license. Veterans
12 must provide to the Department, per administrative rule,
13 verification of their service. The Department shall
14 establish what constitutes suitable verification of
15 service for the purpose of issuing 3-year sportsmen's
16 combination licenses to resident veterans at a reduced
17 fee.

18 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices
19 as defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as
20 defined in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does
21 not exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon
22 or inland trout stamp. The licenses provided for by this
23 subsection are not required for residents of the State of
24 Illinois who have obtained the license provided for in
25 subsection (a) or (a-3) of this Section.

26 (e) All residents before using any commercial mussel

1 device shall obtain a commercial mussel license, the fee
2 for which shall be \$50.

3 (f) Residents of this State, upon establishing
4 residency as required by the Department, may obtain a
5 lifetime hunting or fishing license or lifetime
6 sportsmen's combination license which shall entitle the
7 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
8 residents holding a license as described in paragraph (a)
9 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
10 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
11 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No lifetime
12 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to or
13 retained by any individual who would be ineligible for
14 either the fishing or hunting license separately, either
15 upon issuance, or in any year a violation would subject an
16 individual to have either or both fishing or hunting
17 privileges rescinded. The lifetime hunting and fishing
18 license fees shall be as follows:

19 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing
20 license fee.

21 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting
22 license fee.

23 (3) Lifetime sportsmen's combination license: 30 x
24 the current sportsmen's combination license fee.

25 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall
26 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department

1 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use
2 of lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime
3 license issued under this Section for violations of those
4 rules or regulations or other provisions under this Code or
5 the Wildlife Code, or a violation of the United States Code
6 that involves the taking, possessing, killing, harvesting,
7 transportation, selling, exporting, or importing any fish or
8 aquatic life protected by this Code or the taking, possessing,
9 killing, harvesting, transportation, selling, exporting, or
10 importing any fauna protected by the Wildlife Code when any
11 part of the United States Code violation occurred in Illinois.
12 Individuals under 16 years of age who possess a lifetime
13 hunting or sportsmen's combination license shall have in their
14 possession, while in the field, a certificate of competency as
15 required under Section 3.2 of the Wildlife Code. Any lifetime
16 license issued under this Section shall not exempt individuals
17 from obtaining additional stamps or permits required under the
18 provisions of this Code or the Wildlife Code. Individuals
19 required to purchase additional stamps shall sign the stamps
20 and have them in their possession while fishing or hunting
21 with a lifetime license. All fees received from the issuance
22 of lifetime licenses shall be deposited in the Fish and
23 Wildlife Endowment Fund.

24 Except for licenses issued under subsection (e) of this
25 Section, all licenses provided for in this Section shall
26 expire on March 31 of each year, except that the license

1 provided for in subsection (d) of this Section shall expire 24
2 hours after the effective date and time listed on the face of
3 the license. Licenses issued under subsection (a-3) or (c-5)
4 shall expire on March 31 of the 2nd year after the year in
5 which the license is issued.

6 The Department shall by administrative rule provide for
7 the automatic renewal of a fishing license upon the request of
8 the applicant.

9 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
10 license provided for in subsection (a), (a-3), or (d) of this
11 Section shall be fined according to the provisions of Section
12 20-35 of this Code.

13 All individuals required to have and failing to have the
14 licenses provided for in subsections (b) and (e) of this
15 Section shall be guilty of a Class B misdemeanor.

16 (g) For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
17 verification" means, for veterans, official documentation from
18 the Department of Defense or the appropriate Major Command
19 showing mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including:
20 (i) a DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of
21 Military Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard,
22 (iii) a letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members
23 of the Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major
24 Command covering Illinois for active duty members, (v)
25 personnel records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any
26 other documentation that the Department, by administrative

1 rule, deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or
2 service abroad. For residents serving in the Illinois National
3 Guard, "acceptable verification" means any documentation that
4 the Department, by administrative rule, deems acceptable to
5 establish that the resident is serving in the Illinois
6 National Guard.

7 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
8 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
9 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
10 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
11 States.

12 (Source: P.A. 102-780, eff. 5-13-22; 102-837, eff. 5-13-22;
13 103-154, eff. 6-30-23; 103-456, eff. 1-1-24.)

14 Section 10. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing
15 Section 3.2 as follows:

16 (520 ILCS 5/3.2) (from Ch. 61, par. 3.2)

17 Sec. 3.2. Hunting license; application; instruction.
18 Before the Department or any county, city, village, township,
19 incorporated town clerk or his duly designated agent or any
20 other person authorized or designated by the Department to
21 issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any
22 person, the person shall file his application with the
23 Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on a
24 form provided by the Department and further give definite

1 proof of identity and place of legal residence. Each clerk
2 designating agents to issue licenses and stamps shall furnish
3 the Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the
4 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Each clerk or his
5 duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell licenses and
6 stamps only within the territorial area for which he was
7 elected or appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized
8 to furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by any other
9 business establishment. Each application shall be executed and
10 sworn to and shall set forth the name and description of the
11 applicant and place of residence.

12 No hunting license shall be issued to any person born on or
13 after January 1, 1980 unless he presents the person authorized
14 to issue the license evidence that he has held a hunting
15 license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a
16 prior year, or a certificate of competency as provided in this
17 Section. Persons under 18 years of age may be issued a Lifetime
18 Hunting or Sportsmen's Combination License as provided under
19 Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code but shall not
20 be entitled to hunt alone, without the supervision of an adult
21 age 21 or older, unless they have a certificate of competency
22 as provided in this Section and the certificate is in their
23 possession while hunting.

24 The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize
25 personnel of the Department or certified volunteer instructors
26 to conduct courses, of not less than 10 hours in length, in

1 firearms and hunter safety, which may include training in bow
2 and arrow safety, at regularly specified intervals throughout
3 the State. Persons successfully completing the course shall
4 receive a certificate of competency. The Department of Natural
5 Resources may further cooperate with any reputable association
6 or organization in establishing courses if the organization
7 has as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the
8 handling of firearms or bow and arrow.

9 The Department of Natural Resources shall designate any
10 person found by it to be competent to give instruction in the
11 handling of firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. The
12 persons so appointed shall give the course of instruction and
13 upon the successful completion shall issue to the person
14 instructed a certificate of competency in the safe handling of
15 firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. No charge shall be
16 made for any course of instruction except for materials or
17 ammunition consumed. The Department of Natural Resources shall
18 furnish information on the requirements of hunter safety
19 education programs to be distributed free of charge to
20 applicants for hunting licenses by the persons appointed and
21 authorized to issue licenses. Funds for the conducting of
22 firearms and hunter safety courses shall be taken from the fee
23 charged for the Firearm Owners Identification Card.

24 The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species for a
25 resident of Illinois is \$12. For residents age 65 or older,
26 ~~and, commencing with the 2012 license year,~~ resident veterans

1 of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service
2 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States
3 as an active duty member of the United States Armed Forces, the
4 Illinois National Guard, or the Reserves of the United States
5 Armed Forces, and, commencing with the 2025 license year,
6 resident veterans serving in the Illinois National Guard, the
7 fee is one-half of the fee charged for a hunting license to
8 hunt all species for a resident of Illinois. Residents serving
9 in the Illinois National Guard and veterans ~~Veterans~~ must
10 provide to the Department acceptable verification of their
11 service. The Department shall establish by administrative rule
12 the procedure by which such verification of service shall be
13 made to the Department for the purpose of issuing resident
14 veterans hunting licenses at a reduced fee. The fee for a
15 hunting license to hunt all species shall be \$1 for residents
16 over 75 years of age. Nonresidents shall be charged \$57 for a
17 hunting license.

18 Residents of this State may obtain a 3-year hunting
19 license to hunt all species as described in Section 3.1 for 3
20 times the annual fee. For residents age 65 or older and
21 resident veterans of the United States Armed Forces after
22 returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President
23 of the United States, the fee is one-half of the fee charged
24 for a 3-year hunting license to hunt all species as described
25 in Section 3.1 for a resident of this State. Veterans must
26 provide to the Department, per administrative rule,

1 verification of their service. The Department shall establish
2 what constitutes suitable verification of service for the
3 purpose of issuing resident veterans 3-year hunting licenses
4 at a reduced fee.

5 Nonresidents may be issued a nonresident hunting license
6 for a period not to exceed 10 consecutive days' hunting in the
7 State and shall be charged a fee of \$35.

8 A special nonresident hunting license authorizing a
9 nonresident to take game birds by hunting on a game breeding
10 and hunting preserve area only, established under Section
11 3.27, shall be issued upon proper application being made and
12 payment of a fee equal to that for a resident hunting license.
13 The expiration date of this license shall be on the same date
14 each year that game breeding and hunting preserve area
15 licenses expire.

16 Each applicant for a State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp,
17 regardless of his residence or other condition, shall pay a
18 fee of \$15 and shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State
19 Migratory Waterfowl Stamp shall be waived for residents over
20 75 years of age. Except as provided under Section 20-45 of the
21 Fish and Aquatic Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the
22 person or affixed to his license or permit in a space
23 designated by the Department for that purpose.

24 Each applicant for a State Habitat Stamp, regardless of
25 his residence or other condition, shall pay a fee of \$5 and
26 shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State Habitat Stamp shall

1 be waived for residents over 75 years of age. Except as
2 provided under Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life
3 Code, the stamp shall be signed by the person or affixed to his
4 license or permit in a space designated by the Department for
5 that purpose.

6 Nothing in this Section shall be construed as to require
7 the purchase of more than one State Habitat Stamp by any person
8 in any one license year.

9 The fees for State Pheasant Stamps and State Furbearer
10 Stamps shall be waived for residents over 75 years of age.

11 The Department shall furnish the holders of hunting
12 licenses and stamps with an insignia as evidence of possession
13 of license, or license and stamp, as the Department may
14 consider advisable. The insignia shall be exhibited and used
15 as the Department may order.

16 All other hunting licenses and all State stamps shall
17 expire upon March 31 of each year. Three-year hunting licenses
18 shall expire on March 31 of the 2nd year after the year in
19 which the license is issued.

20 Every person holding any license, permit, or stamp issued
21 under the provisions of this Act shall have it in his
22 possession for immediate presentation for inspection to the
23 officers and authorized employees of the Department, any
24 sheriff, deputy sheriff, or any other peace officer making a
25 demand for it. This provision shall not apply to Department
26 owned or managed sites where it is required that all hunters

1 deposit their license, permit, or Firearm Owner's
2 Identification Card at the check station upon entering the
3 hunting areas.

4 For the purposes of this Section, "acceptable
5 verification" means, for veterans, official documentation from
6 the Department of Defense or the appropriate Major Command
7 showing mobilization dates or service abroad dates, including:
8 (i) a DD-214, (ii) a letter from the Illinois Department of
9 Military Affairs for members of the Illinois National Guard,
10 (iii) a letter from the Regional Reserve Command for members
11 of the Armed Forces Reserve, (iv) a letter from the Major
12 Command covering Illinois for active duty members, (v)
13 personnel records for mobilized State employees, and (vi) any
14 other documentation that the Department, by administrative
15 rule, deems acceptable to establish dates of mobilization or
16 service abroad. For residents serving in the Illinois National
17 Guard, "acceptable verification" means any documentation that
18 the Department, by administrative rule, deems acceptable to
19 establish that the resident is serving in the Illinois
20 National Guard.

21 For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
22 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
23 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
24 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
25 States.

26 (Source: P.A. 102-780, eff. 5-13-22; 103-456, eff. 1-1-24.)

1 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
2 becoming law.