



## 98TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

### State of Illinois

### 2013 and 2014

#### HB4500

by Rep. Robert F. Martwick

#### SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

|                  |                             |
|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 625 ILCS 5/3-609 | from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-609 |
| 515 ILCS 5/20-45 | from Ch. 56, par. 20-45     |
| 520 ILCS 5/3.2   | from Ch. 61, par. 3.2       |

Amends the Illinois Vehicle Code. Provides that any veteran who holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and who has obtained certification from a psychiatrist that the service-connected disability qualifies the veteran for issuance of registration plates or decals to a person with disabilities, may, without the payment of any registration fee, make application to the Secretary of State for disabled veterans license plates displaying the international symbol of access. Amends the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2014 license year, a veteran who holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and whose degree of disability has been declared to be 50% or more, shall be eligible for a free fishing license. Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that, beginning with the 2014 license year, a veteran who holds proof of a service-connected disability from the United States Department of Veterans Affairs, and whose degree of disability has been declared to be 50% or more, shall be eligible for a free hunting license. Effective immediately.

LRB098 17937 MGM 53061 b

1 AN ACT concerning veterans.

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

4 Section 5. The Illinois Vehicle Code is amended by changing  
5 Section 3-609 as follows:

6 (625 ILCS 5/3-609) (from Ch. 95 1/2, par. 3-609)

7 Sec. 3-609. Disabled Veterans' Plates.

8 (a) Any veteran who holds proof of a service-connected  
9 disability from the United States Department of Veterans  
10 Affairs, and who has obtained certification from a licensed  
11 physician, physician assistant, psychiatrist, or advanced  
12 practice nurse that the service-connected disability qualifies  
13 the veteran for issuance of registration plates or decals to a  
14 person with disabilities in accordance with Section 3-616, may,  
15 without the payment of any registration fee, make application  
16 to the Secretary of State for disabled veterans license plates  
17 displaying the international symbol of access, for the  
18 registration of one motor vehicle of the first division or one  
19 motor vehicle of the second division weighing not more than  
20 8,000 pounds.

21 (b) Any veteran who holds proof of a service-connected  
22 disability from the United States Department of Veterans  
23 Affairs, and whose degree of disability has been declared to be

1 50% or more, but whose disability does not qualify the veteran  
2 for a plate or decal for persons with disabilities under  
3 Section 3-616, may, without the payment of any registration  
4 fee, make application to the Secretary for a special  
5 registration plate without the international symbol of access  
6 for the registration of one motor vehicle of the first division  
7 or one motor vehicle of the second division weighing not more  
8 than 8,000 pounds.

9 (c) Renewal of such registration must be accompanied with  
10 documentation for eligibility of registration without fee  
11 unless the applicant has a permanent qualifying disability, and  
12 such registration plates may not be issued to any person not  
13 eligible therefor. The Illinois Department of Veterans'  
14 Affairs may assist in providing the documentation of  
15 disability.

16 (d) The design and color of the plates shall be within the  
17 discretion of the Secretary, except that the plates issued  
18 under subsection (b) of this Section shall not contain the  
19 international symbol of access. The Secretary may, in his or  
20 her discretion, allow the plates to be issued as vanity or  
21 personalized plates in accordance with Section 3-405.1 of this  
22 Code. Registration shall be for a multi-year period and may be  
23 issued staggered registration.

24 (e) Any person eligible to receive license plates under  
25 this Section who has been approved for benefits under the  
26 Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act,

1 or who has claimed and received a grant under that Act, shall  
2 pay a fee of \$24 instead of the fee otherwise provided in this  
3 Code for passenger cars displaying standard multi-year  
4 registration plates issued under Section 3-414.1, for motor  
5 vehicles registered at 8,000 pounds or less under Section  
6 3-815(a), or for recreational vehicles registered at 8,000  
7 pounds or less under Section 3-815(b), for a second set of  
8 plates under this Section.

9 (Source: P.A. 97-689, eff. 6-14-12; 97-918, eff. 1-1-13;  
10 98-463, eff. 8-16-13.)

11 Section 10. The Fish and Aquatic Life Code is amended by  
12 changing Section 20-45 as follows:

13 (515 ILCS 5/20-45) (from Ch. 56, par. 20-45)

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

16 (a) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, for  
17 sport fishing devices as defined in Section 10-95 or  
18 spearing devices as defined in Section 10-110, the fee is  
19 \$14.50 for individuals 16 to 64 years old, one-half of the  
20 current fishing license fee for individuals age 65 or  
21 older, and, commencing with the 2012 license year, one-half  
22 of the current fishing license fee for resident veterans of  
23 the United States Armed Forces after returning from service  
24 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United

1 States. Veterans must provide, to the Department at one of  
2 the Department's 5 regional offices, verification of their  
3 service. The Department shall establish what constitutes  
4 suitable verification of service for the purpose of issuing  
5 fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.  
6 Beginning with the 2014 license year, a veteran who holds  
7 proof of a service-connected disability from the federal  
8 Department of Veterans Affairs, and whose degree of  
9 disability has been declared to be 50% or more, shall be  
10 eligible for a free fishing license. Renewal of that  
11 license must be accompanied with documentation for  
12 eligibility of license without a fee, unless the applicant  
13 has a permanent qualifying disability, in which case, the  
14 disabled veteran is not required to renew the license. The  
15 Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs may assist in  
16 providing the documentation of disability.

17 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing  
18 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee  
19 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the  
20 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device  
21 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman  
22 as follows:

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

26 (2) For each device to fish with a 100 hook trot

1 line device, basket trap, hoop net, or dip net the fee  
2 is \$3.

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

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

11 (c) Residents of the State of Illinois may obtain a  
12 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the  
13 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as  
14 residents holding a license as described in subsection (a)  
15 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as  
16 residents holding a license to hunt all species as  
17 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No  
18 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to any  
19 individual who would be ineligible for either the fishing  
20 or hunting license separately. The sportsmen's combination  
21 license fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or older,  
22 the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a sportsmen's  
23 combination license. For resident veterans of the United  
24 States Armed Forces after returning from service abroad or  
25 mobilization by the President of the United States, the  
26 fee, commencing with the 2012 license year, is one-half of

1 the fee charged for a sportsmen's combination license.  
2 Veterans must provide to the Department, at one of the  
3 Department's 5 regional offices, verification of their  
4 service. The Department shall establish what constitutes  
5 suitable verification of service for the purpose of issuing  
6 sportsmen's combination licenses to resident veterans at a  
7 reduced fee.

8 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices as  
9 defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as defined  
10 in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does not  
11 exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon or  
12 inland trout stamp. The licenses provided for by this  
13 subsection are not required for residents of the State of  
14 Illinois who have obtained the license provided for in  
15 subsection (a) of this Section.

16 (e) All residents before using any commercial mussel  
17 device shall obtain a commercial mussel license, the fee  
18 for which shall be \$50.

19 (f) Residents of this State, upon establishing  
20 residency as required by the Department, may obtain a  
21 lifetime hunting or fishing license or lifetime  
22 sportsmen's combination license which shall entitle the  
23 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as  
24 residents holding a license as described in paragraph (a)  
25 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as  
26 residents holding a license to hunt all species as

1 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No lifetime  
2 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to or  
3 retained by any individual who would be ineligible for  
4 either the fishing or hunting license separately, either  
5 upon issuance, or in any year a violation would subject an  
6 individual to have either or both fishing or hunting  
7 privileges rescinded. The lifetime hunting and fishing  
8 license fees shall be as follows:

9 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing  
10 license fee.

11 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting  
12 license fee.

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

15 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall  
16 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department  
17 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use of  
18 lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime  
19 license issued under this Section for violations of those rules  
20 or regulations or other provisions under this Code or the  
21 Wildlife Code. Individuals under 16 years of age who possess a  
22 lifetime hunting or sportsmen's combination license shall have  
23 in their possession, while in the field, a certificate of  
24 competency as required under Section 3.2 of the Wildlife Code.  
25 Any lifetime license issued under this Section shall not exempt  
26 individuals from obtaining additional stamps or permits



1 required under the provisions of this Code or the Wildlife  
2 Code. Individuals required to purchase additional stamps shall  
3 sign the stamps and have them in their possession while fishing  
4 or hunting with a lifetime license. All fees received from the  
5 issuance of lifetime licenses shall be deposited in the Fish  
6 and Wildlife Endowment Fund.

7 Except for licenses issued to a permanently disabled  
8 veteran under subsection (a) of this Section and licenses  
9 issued under subsection (e) of this Section, all licenses  
10 provided for in this Section shall expire on March 31 of each  
11 year, except that the license provided for in subsection (d) of  
12 this Section shall expire 24 hours after the effective date and  
13 time listed on the face of the license.

14 All individuals required to have and failing to have the  
15 license provided for in subsection (a) or (d) of this Section  
16 shall be fined according to the provisions of Section 20-35 of  
17 this Code.

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

21 (Source: P.A. 96-831, eff. 1-1-10; 97-498, eff. 4-1-12;  
22 97-1136, eff. 1-1-13.)

23 Section 15. The Wildlife Code is amended by changing  
24 Section 3.2 as follows:

1 (520 ILCS 5/3.2) (from Ch. 61, par. 3.2)

2 Sec. 3.2. Hunting license; application; instruction.  
3 Before the Department or any county, city, village, township,  
4 incorporated town clerk or his duly designated agent or any  
5 other person authorized or designated by the Department to  
6 issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any  
7 person, the person shall file his application with the  
8 Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on a  
9 form provided by the Department and further give definite proof  
10 of identity and place of legal residence. Each clerk  
11 designating agents to issue licenses and stamps shall furnish  
12 the Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the  
13 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Each clerk or his  
14 duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell licenses and  
15 stamps only within the territorial area for which he was  
16 elected or appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized to  
17 furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by any other business  
18 establishment. Each application shall be executed and sworn to  
19 and shall set forth the name and description of the applicant  
20 and place of residence.

21 No hunting license shall be issued to any person born on or  
22 after January 1, 1980 unless he presents the person authorized  
23 to issue the license evidence that he has held a hunting  
24 license issued by the State of Illinois or another state in a  
25 prior year, or a certificate of competency as provided in this  
26 Section. Persons under 16 years of age may be issued a Lifetime

1 Hunting or Sportsmen's Combination License as provided under  
2 Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life Code but shall not  
3 be entitled to hunt unless they have a certificate of  
4 competency as provided in this Section and they shall have the  
5 certificate in their possession while hunting.

6 The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize  
7 personnel of the Department or certified volunteer instructors  
8 to conduct courses, of not less than 10 hours in length, in  
9 firearms and hunter safety, which may include training in bow  
10 and arrow safety, at regularly specified intervals throughout  
11 the State. Persons successfully completing the course shall  
12 receive a certificate of competency. The Department of Natural  
13 Resources may further cooperate with any reputable association  
14 or organization in establishing courses if the organization has  
15 as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the  
16 handling of firearms or bow and arrow.

17 The Department of Natural Resources shall designate any  
18 person found by it to be competent to give instruction in the  
19 handling of firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. The  
20 persons so appointed shall give the course of instruction and  
21 upon the successful completion shall issue to the person  
22 instructed a certificate of competency in the safe handling of  
23 firearms, hunter safety, and bow and arrow. No charge shall be  
24 made for any course of instruction except for materials or  
25 ammunition consumed. The Department of Natural Resources shall  
26 furnish information on the requirements of hunter safety

1 education programs to be distributed free of charge to  
2 applicants for hunting licenses by the persons appointed and  
3 authorized to issue licenses. Funds for the conducting of  
4 firearms and hunter safety courses shall be taken from the fee  
5 charged for the Firearm Owners Identification Card.

6 The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species for a  
7 resident of Illinois is \$12. For residents age 65 or older,  
8 and, commencing with the 2012 license year, resident veterans  
9 of the United States Armed Forces after returning from service  
10 abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States,  
11 the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a hunting license to  
12 hunt all species for a resident of Illinois. Veterans must  
13 provide to the Department, at one of the Department's 5  
14 regional offices, verification of their service. The  
15 Department shall establish what constitutes suitable  
16 verification of service for the purpose of issuing resident  
17 veterans hunting licenses at a reduced fee. Beginning with the  
18 2014 license year, a veteran who holds proof of a  
19 service-connected disability from the federal Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs, and whose degree of disability has been  
21 declared to be 50% or more, shall be eligible for a free  
22 hunting license. Renewal of that license must be accompanied  
23 with documentation for eligibility of license without a fee,  
24 unless the applicant has a permanent qualifying disability, in  
25 which case, the disabled veteran is not required to renew the  
26 license. The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs may

1 assist in providing the documentation of disability.

2 Nonresidents shall be charged \$57 for a hunting license.

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

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

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

21 Each applicant for a State Habitat Stamp, regardless of his  
22 residence or other condition, shall pay a fee of \$5 and shall  
23 receive a stamp. Except as provided under Section 20-45 of the  
24 Fish and Aquatic Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the  
25 person or affixed to his license or permit in a space  
26 designated by the Department for that purpose.

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

4           The Department shall furnish the holders of hunting  
5 licenses and stamps with an insignia as evidence of possession  
6 of license, or license and stamp, as the Department may  
7 consider advisable. The insignia shall be exhibited and used as  
8 the Department may order.

9           Except for licenses issued to permanently disabled  
10 veterans under this Section, all ~~All~~ other hunting licenses and  
11 all State stamps shall expire upon March 31 of each year.

12           Every person holding any license, permit, or stamp issued  
13 under the provisions of this Act shall have it in his  
14 possession for immediate presentation for inspection to the  
15 officers and authorized employees of the Department, any  
16 sheriff, deputy sheriff, or any other peace officer making a  
17 demand for it. This provision shall not apply to Department  
18 owned or managed sites where it is required that all hunters  
19 deposit their license, permit, or Firearm Owner's  
20 Identification Card at the check station upon entering the  
21 hunting areas.

22           (Source: P.A. 96-831, eff. 1-1-10; 97-498, eff. 4-1-12.)

23           Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon  
24 becoming law.