

1 AN ACT concerning fish.

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 20-5 as follows:

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

7 Sec. 20-5. Necessity of license; exemptions.

8 (a) Any person taking or attempting to take any fish,
9 including minnows for commercial purposes, turtles, mussels,
10 crayfish, or frogs by any means whatever in any waters or lands
11 wholly or in part within the jurisdiction of the State,
12 including that part of Lake Michigan under the jurisdiction of
13 this State, shall first obtain a license to do so, and shall do
14 so only during the respective periods of the year when it shall
15 be lawful as provided in this Code. Individuals under 18 ~~16~~,
16 blind residents or residents with a disability, or individuals
17 fishing at fee fishing areas licensed by the Department,
18 however, may fish with sport fishing devices without being
19 required to have a license. For the purpose of this Section an
20 individual is blind or has a disability if that individual has
21 a Class 2 disability as defined in Section 4A of the Illinois
22 Identification Card Act. For purposes of this Section an
23 Illinois Person with a Disability Identification Card issued

1 under the Illinois Identification Card Act indicating that the
2 individual named on the card has a Class 2 disability shall be
3 adequate documentation of a disability.

4 (b) A courtesy non-resident sport fishing license or stamp
5 may be issued at the discretion of the Director, without fee,
6 to (i) any individual officially employed in the wildlife and
7 fish or conservation department of another state or of the
8 United States who is within the State to assist or consult or
9 cooperate with the Director or (ii) the officials of other
10 states, the United States, foreign countries, or officers or
11 representatives of conservation organizations or publications
12 while in the State as guests of the Governor or Director.

13 (c) The Director may issue special fishing permits without
14 cost to groups of hospital patients or to individuals with
15 disabilities for use on specified dates in connection with
16 supervised fishing for therapy.

17 (d) Veterans who, according to the determination of the
18 Veterans' Administration as certified by the Department of
19 Veterans' Affairs, are at least 10% disabled with
20 service-related disabilities or in receipt of total disability
21 pensions may fish with sport fishing devices during those
22 periods of the year it is lawful to do so without being
23 required to have a license, on the condition that their
24 respective disabilities do not prevent them from fishing in a
25 manner which is safe to themselves and others.

26 (e) Each year the Director may designate a period, not to

1 exceed 4 days in duration, when sport fishermen may fish
2 waters wholly or in part within the jurisdiction of the State,
3 including that part of Lake Michigan under the jurisdiction of
4 the State, and not be required to obtain the license or stamp
5 required by subsection (a) of this Section, Section 20-10 or
6 subsection (a) of Section 20-55. The term of any such period
7 shall be established by administrative rule. This subsection
8 shall not apply to commercial fishing.

9 (f) The Director may issue special fishing permits without
10 cost for a group event, restricted to specific dates and
11 locations if it is determined by the Department that the event
12 is beneficial in promoting sport fishing in Illinois.

13 (Source: P.A. 99-143, eff. 7-27-15.)

14 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
15 becoming law.