

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 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 (e-5) Each year the Director may designate that Veterans  
10 Day, as federally designated, is a day when sport fishermen  
11 may fish waters wholly or in part within the jurisdiction of  
12 the State, including the part of Lake Michigan under the  
13 jurisdiction of the State, and not be required to obtain the  
14 license or stamp required by subsection (a) of this Section,  
15 Section 20-10, or subsection (a) of Section 20-55. This  
16 subsection shall not apply to commercial fishing.

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

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