



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4540

Introduced 1/21/2022, by Rep. David A. Welter

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

515 ILCS 5/20-45
520 ILCS 5/3.2

from Ch. 56, par. 20-45
from Ch. 61, par. 3.2

Amends the Wildlife Code and the Fish and Aquatic Life Code. Provides that hunting and fishing license fees shall be one-half the price of the current license fee amount for all resident veterans, regardless of deployment (instead of only for veterans after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the President of the United States). Effective immediately.

LRB102 23401 NLB 32570 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, regardless of
17 deployment ~~after returning from service abroad or~~
18 ~~mobilization by the President of the United States.~~
19 Veterans must provide, to the Department at one of the
20 Department's 5 regional offices, verification of their
21 service. The Department shall establish what constitutes
22 suitable verification of service for the purpose of
23 issuing fishing licenses to resident veterans at a reduced

1 fee.

2 (a-5) The fee for all sport fishing licenses shall be
3 \$1 for residents over 75 years of age.

4 (b) All residents before using any commercial fishing
5 device shall obtain a commercial fishing license, the fee
6 for which shall be \$60 and a resident fishing license, the
7 fee for which is \$14.50. Each and every commercial device
8 used shall be licensed by a resident commercial fisherman
9 as follows:

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

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

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

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

25 (c) Residents of the State of Illinois may obtain a
26 sportsmen's combination license that shall entitle the

1 holder to the same non-commercial fishing privileges as
2 residents holding a license as described in subsection (a)
3 of this Section and to the same hunting privileges as
4 residents holding a license to hunt all species as
5 described in Section 3.1 of the Wildlife Code. No
6 sportsmen's combination license shall be issued to any
7 individual who would be ineligible for either the fishing
8 or hunting license separately. The sportsmen's combination
9 license fee shall be \$25.50. For residents age 65 or
10 older, the fee is one-half of the fee charged for a
11 sportsmen's combination license. For resident veterans of
12 the United States Armed Forces, regardless of deployment
13 ~~after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the~~
14 ~~President of the United States~~, the fee, commencing with
15 the 2012 license year, is one-half of the fee charged for a
16 sportsmen's combination license. Veterans must provide to
17 the Department, at one of the Department's 5 regional
18 offices, verification of their service. The Department
19 shall establish what constitutes suitable verification of
20 service for the purpose of issuing sportsmen's combination
21 licenses to resident veterans at a reduced fee.

22 (d) For 24 hours of fishing by sport fishing devices
23 as defined in Section 10-95 or by spearing devices as
24 defined in Section 10-110 the fee is \$5. This license does
25 not exempt the licensee from the requirement for a salmon
26 or inland trout stamp. The licenses provided for by this

1 subsection are not required for residents of the State of
2 Illinois who have obtained the license provided for in
3 subsection (a) of this Section.

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

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

23 (1) Lifetime fishing: 30 x the current fishing
24 license fee.

25 (2) Lifetime hunting: 30 x the current hunting
26 license fee.

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

3 Lifetime licenses shall not be refundable. A \$10 fee shall
4 be charged for reissuing any lifetime license. The Department
5 may establish rules and regulations for the issuance and use
6 of lifetime licenses and may suspend or revoke any lifetime
7 license issued under this Section for violations of those
8 rules or regulations or other provisions under this Code or
9 the Wildlife Code. Individuals under 16 years of age who
10 possess a lifetime hunting or sportsmen's combination license
11 shall have in their possession, while in the field, a
12 certificate of competency as required under Section 3.2 of the
13 Wildlife Code. Any lifetime license issued under this Section
14 shall not exempt individuals from obtaining additional stamps
15 or permits required under the provisions of this Code or the
16 Wildlife Code. Individuals required to purchase additional
17 stamps shall sign the stamps and have them in their possession
18 while fishing or hunting with a lifetime license. All fees
19 received from the issuance of lifetime licenses shall be
20 deposited in the Fish and Wildlife Endowment Fund.

21 Except for licenses issued under subsection (e) of this
22 Section, all licenses provided for in this Section shall
23 expire on March 31 of each year, except that the license
24 provided for in subsection (d) of this Section shall expire 24
25 hours after the effective date and time listed on the face of
26 the license.

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

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

8 (Source: P.A. 97-498, eff. 4-1-12; 97-1136, eff. 1-1-13;
9 98-800, eff. 8-1-14.)

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

12 (520 ILCS 5/3.2) (from Ch. 61, par. 3.2)

13 Sec. 3.2. Hunting license; application; instruction.
14 Before the Department or any county, city, village, township,
15 incorporated town clerk or his duly designated agent or any
16 other person authorized or designated by the Department to
17 issue hunting licenses shall issue a hunting license to any
18 person, the person shall file his application with the
19 Department or other party authorized to issue licenses on a
20 form provided by the Department and further give definite
21 proof of identity and place of legal residence. Each clerk
22 designating agents to issue licenses and stamps shall furnish
23 the Department, within 10 days following the appointment, the
24 names and mailing addresses of the agents. Each clerk or his

1 duly designated agent shall be authorized to sell licenses and
2 stamps only within the territorial area for which he was
3 elected or appointed. No duly designated agent is authorized
4 to furnish licenses or stamps for issuance by any other
5 business establishment. Each application shall be executed and
6 sworn to and shall set forth the name and description of the
7 applicant and place of residence.

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

20 The Department of Natural Resources shall authorize
21 personnel of the Department or certified volunteer instructors
22 to conduct courses, of not less than 10 hours in length, in
23 firearms and hunter safety, which may include training in bow
24 and arrow safety, at regularly specified intervals throughout
25 the State. Persons successfully completing the course shall
26 receive a certificate of competency. The Department of Natural

1 Resources may further cooperate with any reputable association
2 or organization in establishing courses if the organization
3 has as one of its objectives the promotion of safety in the
4 handling of firearms or bow and arrow.

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

20 The fee for a hunting license to hunt all species for a
21 resident of Illinois is \$12. For residents age 65 or older,
22 and, commencing with the 2012 license year, resident veterans
23 of the United States Armed Forces, regardless of deployment
24 ~~after returning from service abroad or mobilization by the~~
25 ~~President of the United States~~, the fee is one-half of the fee
26 charged for a hunting license to hunt all species for a

1 resident of Illinois. Veterans must provide to the Department,
2 at one of the Department's 5 regional offices, verification of
3 their service. The Department shall establish what constitutes
4 suitable verification of service for the purpose of issuing
5 resident veterans hunting licenses at a reduced fee. The fee
6 for a hunting license to hunt all species shall be \$1 for
7 residents over 75 years of age. Nonresidents shall be charged
8 \$57 for a hunting license.

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

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

20 Each applicant for a State Migratory Waterfowl Stamp,
21 regardless of his residence or other condition, shall pay a
22 fee of \$15 and shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State
23 Migratory Waterfowl Stamp shall be waived for residents over
24 75 years of age. Except as provided under Section 20-45 of the
25 Fish and Aquatic Life Code, the stamp shall be signed by the
26 person or affixed to his license or permit in a space

1 designated by the Department for that purpose.

2 Each applicant for a State Habitat Stamp, regardless of
3 his residence or other condition, shall pay a fee of \$5 and
4 shall receive a stamp. The fee for a State Habitat Stamp shall
5 be waived for residents over 75 years of age. Except as
6 provided under Section 20-45 of the Fish and Aquatic Life
7 Code, the stamp shall be signed by the person or affixed to his
8 license or permit in a space designated by the Department for
9 that purpose.

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

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

15 The Department shall furnish the holders of hunting
16 licenses and stamps with an insignia as evidence of possession
17 of license, or license and stamp, as the Department may
18 consider advisable. The insignia shall be exhibited and used
19 as the Department may order.

20 All other hunting licenses and all State stamps shall
21 expire upon March 31 of each year.

22 Every person holding any license, permit, or stamp issued
23 under the provisions of this Act shall have it in his
24 possession for immediate presentation for inspection to the
25 officers and authorized employees of the Department, any
26 sheriff, deputy sheriff, or any other peace officer making a

1 demand for it. This provision shall not apply to Department
2 owned or managed sites where it is required that all hunters
3 deposit their license, permit, or Firearm Owner's
4 Identification Card at the check station upon entering the
5 hunting areas.

6 (Source: P.A. 100-638, eff. 1-1-19; 101-81, eff. 7-12-19.)

7 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
8 becoming law.