

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 Wildlife Code is amended by changing Section
5 3.1-4 as follows:

6 (520 ILCS 5/3.1-4)

7 Sec. 3.1-4. Military members returning from mobilization
8 and service outside the United States.

9 (a) After returning from service abroad or mobilization by
10 the President of the United States as an active duty member of
11 the United States Armed Forces, the Illinois National Guard, or
12 the Reserves of the United States Armed Forces, an Illinois
13 resident may hunt any of the species protected by Section 2.2
14 of this Code without paying any fees required to obtain a
15 hunting license for the time period prescribed by subsection
16 (b) of this Section if the Illinois resident applies for a
17 license within 2 years after returning from service abroad or
18 mobilization. The applicant shall provide acceptable
19 verification of service or mobilization to the Department
20 either at the Department's office in Springfield or at a
21 Regional Office of the Department.

22 (b) For each year that an applicant is an active duty
23 member pursuant to subsection (a) of this Section, the

1 applicant shall receive one free hunting license, one free Deer
2 Hunting Permit as provided in Section 2.26 of this Code and
3 rules adopted pursuant to that Section, and one free State
4 Habitat Stamp. For the purposes of this determination, if the
5 period of active duty is a portion of a year (for example, one
6 year and 3 months), the applicant will be credited with a full
7 year for the portion of a year served.

8 (c) (Blank).

9 (c-5) An Illinois resident veteran may obtain an Illinois
10 Hunter Education card if he or she completes the online study
11 section of the Illinois Hunter Education program and provides
12 the Department with acceptable verification of service or
13 mobilization.

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

1 (e) For the purposes of this Section, the term "service
2 abroad" means active duty service outside of the 50 United
3 States and the District of Columbia, and includes all active
4 duty service in territories and possessions of the United
5 States.

6 (Source: P.A. 96-1014, eff. 1-1-11.)

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