

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.