

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

BILL NO. Senate Bill 411

PRINTER NO. 360

AMOUNT

See Fiscal Impact

FUND

Fish Fund

DATE INTRODUCED

February 21, 2023

PRIME SPONSOR

Senator Pennycuik

DESCRIPTION

Senate Bill 411 amends Title 30 (Fish) of the Pennsylvania Consolidated Statutes to allow 100% disabled veterans to obtain a free lifetime fishing license and makes technical changes to the current statute.

Section 2707 (relating to disabled veterans and former prisoners of war) is amended by allowing veterans with a service-connected disability rating between 60% and 99% to obtain a resident fishing license for \$1.00 and eliminates a provision requiring the disability to be the result of a war or armed conflict. This section is further amended by allowing a disabled veteran with a service-connected disability rating of 100% to obtain a free disabled veteran lifetime fishing license. Current law requires a 100% permanent disability rating that was incurred in any war or armed conflict.

Section 2707.1 (relating to deployed Pennsylvania National Guard members) is amended by adding "and reserve component of armed forces members." Any member of the Pennsylvania National Guard or member of a reserve component of the armed forces that was deployed within the previous 24 months is able to obtain an annual resident fishing license for \$1.00. Current law only provides this benefit for members of the Pennsylvania National Guard that were deployed overseas.

Section 2707.2 (relating to reserve component of armed forces members) is no longer necessary due to the amendment to Section 2707.1 and is thereby repealed in this legislation.

This act shall take effect in 60 days.

FISCAL IMPACT:

According to the Pennsylvania Fish and Boat Commission (commission) the amendment to section 2707 will have no fiscal impact on the Fish Fund because the current practice of county treasurers is to issue lifetime fishing licenses to 100% disabled veterans without ascertaining how the applicant's disability was incurred.

SENATE APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE

According to the Pennsylvania Department of Military and Veterans Affairs there were 392 members of the National Guard deployed in 2021 and 857 in 2022. The commission estimates that 8.5% of those individuals are likely anglers and would apply for an annual resident fishing license at an annual cost of \$23.50.

Assuming 106 of the total guardsmen deployed within the previous 24 months would apply for an annual resident fishing license at the reduced price of \$1.00, there would be an estimated loss to the Fish Fund of \$2,385.