

**Department of Planning and Budget  
2012 Fiscal Impact Statement**

**1. Bill Number:** HB719

**House of Origin**     Introduced         Substitute         Engrossed  
**Second House**     In Committee     Substitute         Enrolled

**2. Patron:**        Yancey

**3. Committee:** Passed both houses.

**4. Title:**        Hunting and fishing license, special; for permanently disabled veterans to purchase.

**5. Summary:** This enrolled bill allows a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled due to a service-connected disability to receive at no cost a freshwater fishing license, a hunting license, or a combined hunting and fishing license from the Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (DGIF). Currently, a combined hunting and fishing discounted license is offered to qualifying veterans. A requirement of any hunting license is participation in a hunter education program.

**6. Budget Amendment Necessary:** No.

**7. Fiscal Impact Estimates:** Indeterminate. See #8.

**8. Fiscal Implications:** The amended bill provides that fishing and hunting licenses for qualifying veterans shall be offered at no cost. Currently, statute establishes a fee of five dollars for the combined hunting and fishing license for qualifying veterans. According to the agency, the number of qualifying veterans who apply for this license each year ranges from 300 to 600 individuals. DGIF would incur a revenue loss associated with the fee from these licenses. In addition, the agency would also lose the federal funding provided for these licenses. DGIF has stated that the agency receives a federal match for paid fishing and hunting licenses, and for these specific veteran licenses which are valid for life, the agency continues to receive federal funding until the individual reaches the age of 72.

DGIF could also incur increased administrative and processing costs, as additional qualifying veterans may take advantage of the free licenses. However, the impact of this legislation remains indeterminate because the impact is determined by the number of veterans applying for the free license as well as the number above age 72 for federal impact purposes.

**9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected:** Department of Game and Inland Fisheries.

**10. Technical Amendment Necessary:** No.

**11. Other Comments:** This bill is similar to SB528.

**Date:** 2/27/12

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