

Department of Planning and Budget

2022 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB120

House of Origin	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Introduced	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Engrossed
Second House	<input type="checkbox"/> In Committee	<input type="checkbox"/> Substitute	<input type="checkbox"/> Enrolled

2. Patron: Wyatt

3. Committee: Agriculture, Chesapeake and Natural Resources

4. Title: Disabled veterans, certain; special hunting and fishing license.

5. Summary: Authorizes resident veterans who have a service-connected disability of at least 30 percent to receive from the Department of Wildlife Resources, at no cost or a reduced cost depending on the veteran's disability rating, a lifetime license to hunt and freshwater fish. Current law authorizes the provision of such license at no cost to a veteran who is totally and permanently disabled and at half-cost to a veteran who is 70 percent disabled.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Indeterminate. See item 8.

8. Fiscal Implications: The Department of Wildlife Resources (DWR) anticipates an indeterminate nongeneral fund and federal revenue loss as a result of this bill. Any impact will depend on the number of eligible applicants.

Federal funding is available to DWR in proportion to the number of licenses the agency sells, resulting in a potential federal impact. The amount of federal support received by DWR is calculated based on agency license revenues. In order to report a hunter/angler as a certified license holder, the state fish and wildlife agency must receive a minimum net revenue (currently \$2.00) for said license. For each certified license holder that DWR reports, Virginia receives approximately \$36.00 (\$26 for every hunting license and \$10 for every fishing license) in federal support. Annual apportionments from this program, coupled with the sales of hunting and fishing license, represent more than three-fourths of DWR's operating budget each year. In addition to these revenue sources, the department receives revenue generated from the Watercraft Sales and Use Tax as well as the sales tax on hunting, fishing, and wildlife equipment.

Any impact a loss of nongeneral fund revenue tied to hunting and fishing license fees and the corresponding federal apportionments may have on agency services is indeterminate.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: Department of Wildlife Resources.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is similar to HB115, which authorize resident veterans who meet certain service-connected disability requirements to receive lifetime hunting and fishing licenses at no cost or at a reduced cost. HB114 authorizes certain volunteer firefighter and emergency personnel to apply for lifetime hunting and fishing licenses at no cost.