

HOUSE BILL 755

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By: **Delegate Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 7, 2021

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – ~~Complimentary Angler's License – Disabled Veterans~~**
3 **Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund – No Cost Licenses and Stamps**

4 FOR the purpose of ~~reducing the qualifying percentage of disability necessary for the~~
5 ~~Department of Natural Resources to be authorized to issue a lifetime complimentary~~
6 ~~angler's license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a service~~
7 ~~connected disabled American veteran; and generally relating to complimentary~~
8 ~~angler's licenses for disabled veterans~~ authorizing an eligible sponsor organization
9 providing recreational opportunities with grant funding from the Healing Hunting
10 and Fishing Fund to provide at no cost an angler's license and trout stamps, a
11 Chesapeake Bay and coastal sport fishing license, or a hunting license and any
12 corresponding stamps to certain persons; making conforming changes; and generally
13 relating to the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

14 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
15 Article – Natural Resources
16 Section 1–405
17 Annotated Code of Maryland
18 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

19 BY repealing and reenacting, ~~with~~ without amendments,
20 Article – Natural Resources
21 Section 4–607
22 Annotated Code of Maryland
23 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – Natural Resources

1–405.

(a) (1) In this section the following words have the meanings indicated.

(2) “Eligible sponsor organization” means a nonprofit charitable organization that provides any of the following opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from one of the opportunities provided, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States or other members of the armed forces of the United States who could benefit from one of the opportunities provided, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair:

(i) Recreational hunting or fishing, INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO COST:

1. AN ANGLER’S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;
2. A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE; OR
3. A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING STAMPS;

(ii) Recreational water activities;

(iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;

(iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or

(v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural jobs.

(3) “Gold Star recipient” means a recipient of the U.S. Department of Defense Gold Star for surviving spouses, parents, and next of kin of members of the armed forces of the United States who lost their lives in combat.

(b) (1) (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii) of this paragraph, the Chesapeake Bay Trust may use the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund established under subsection (d) of this section to make grants to eligible sponsor organizations.

(ii) In awarding a grant to an eligible sponsor organization that

provides opportunities that the eligible sponsor organization believes benefit veterans or members of the armed forces of the United States, the Chesapeake Bay Trust shall determine whether the opportunities provided by the eligible sponsor organization will, in fact, benefit veterans or members of the armed forces of the United States.

(2) A grant awarded under this subsection may be used only to pay capital, operational, or programming costs incurred by an eligible sponsor organization in providing any of the following opportunities:

(i) Recreational hunting or fishing, INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO COST:

1. AN ANGLER'S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;

2. A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING LICENSE; OR

3. A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING STAMPS;

(ii) Recreational water activities;

(iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;

(iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or

(v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural jobs.

(c) The Department shall adopt regulations to implement this section, including regulations establishing eligibility requirements for applicants for grants to eligible sponsor organizations.

(d) (1) In this subsection, "Fund" means the Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

(2) There is a Healing Hunting and Fishing Fund.

(3) The purpose of the Fund is to provide any of the following opportunities for Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from one of the opportunities, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States or other members of the armed forces of the United States who could benefit from one of the opportunities, and permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair:

(i) Recreational hunting or fishing, INCLUDING PROVIDING AT NO COST:

1 **1. AN ANGLER'S LICENSE AND TROUT STAMPS;**

2 **2. A CHESAPEAKE BAY AND COASTAL SPORT FISHING**

3 **LICENSE; OR**

4 **3. A HUNTING LICENSE AND ANY CORRESPONDING**

5 **STAMPS;**

6 (ii) Recreational water activities;

7 (iii) Other recreational outdoor activities;

8 (iv) Therapeutic outdoor activities; or

9 (v) Workforce training for green jobs, including outdoor agricultural
10 jobs.

11 (4) The Chesapeake Bay Trust shall administer the Fund.

12 (5) (i) The Fund is a special, nonlapsing fund that is not subject to §
13 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

14 (ii) The State Treasurer shall hold the Fund separately, and the
15 Comptroller shall account for the Fund.

16 (6) The Fund consists of:

17 (i) Donations collected by the Department under § 1-403(d) of this
18 subtitle;

19 (ii) Money appropriated in the State budget to the Fund; and

20 (iii) Any other money from any other source accepted for the benefit
21 of the Fund.

22 (7) The Fund may be used only for grants to eligible sponsor organizations
23 in accordance with subsection (b) of this section.

24 (8) (i) The State Treasurer shall invest the money of the Fund in the
25 same manner as other State money may be invested.

26 (ii) Any interest earnings of the Fund shall be credited to the
27 General Fund of the State.

28 (9) Expenditures from the Fund may be made only in accordance with the
29 State budget.

(10) Money expended from the Fund for grants to eligible sponsor organizations is supplemental to and is not intended to take the place of funding that otherwise would be appropriated for any of the opportunities specified under subsection (b)(2) of this section that are provided to Gold Star recipients, disabled veterans or other veterans who could benefit from one of the opportunities, disabled members of the armed forces of the United States or other members of the armed forces of the United States who could benefit from one of the opportunities, or permanently disabled persons who require the use of a wheelchair.

4-607.

(a) (1) The Department may issue annually a complimentary angler's license to the President of the United States, the governor of any state, and any official of the game and fish department of any other state.

(2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler's license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or ~~100%~~ ~~80%~~ service connected disabled American veteran.

(3) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler's license to an out-of-state person who certifies that the person is a former prisoner of war or a 100% service connected disabled American veteran if the person's state of residence extends similar privileges to former prisoners of war or 100% service connected disabled American veterans of this State.

(b) Not more than 20 complimentary angler's licenses for each state other than Maryland shall be outstanding at any time.

(c) A complimentary angler's license is not transferable and shall be issued without a fee.

(d) For the purposes of this section, "former prisoner of war" means a person who, while serving in the active military, naval, or air service of the United States, was forcibly detained or interned in the line of duty by an enemy government or its agents, or a hostile force, during a period of armed conflict.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.