

HOUSE BILL 755

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By: **Delegate Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2021

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Natural Resources – Complimentary Angler’s License – Disabled Veterans**

3 FOR the purpose of reducing the qualifying percentage of disability necessary for the
4 Department of Natural Resources to be authorized to issue a lifetime complimentary
5 angler’s license to any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a service
6 connected disabled American veteran; and generally relating to complimentary
7 angler’s licenses for disabled veterans.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Natural Resources
10 Section 4–607
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

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

15 **Article – Natural Resources**

16 4–607.

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

20 (2) The Department may issue a lifetime complimentary angler’s license to
21 any Maryland resident who certifies that the resident is a former prisoner of war or [100%]
22 **80%** service connected disabled American veteran.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



(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.