

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA

SESSION 1993

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SENATE BILL 1222

Short Title: Disabled Sportsman Program.

(Public)

Sponsors: Senators Shaw; Albertson, Warren, Sands, Simpson, Gulley, Ballance, Folger, Plyler, Blackmon, Cochrane, Daniel, Forrester, and Kincaid.

Referred to: Agriculture, Marine Resources and Wildlife.

June 3, 1993

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR A DISABLED SPORTSMAN PROGRAM UNDER
3 THE WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

5 Section 1. Article 22 of Chapter 113 of the General Statutes is amended by
6 adding a new section to read:

7 "**§ 113-296. Disabled Sportsman Program.**

8 (a) The Disabled Sportsman Program is established, to be developed and
9 administered by the Wildlife Resources Commission. The Disabled Sportsman
10 Program shall consist of special hunting and fishing activities adapted to the needs of
11 persons with the disabilities described in subsection (b) of this section.

12 (b) In order to be eligible for participation in the Disabled Sportsman Program
13 established by this section, a person must be able to certify through competent medical
14 evidence one of the following disabilities:

15 (1) Amputation of one or more limbs;

16 (2) Paralysis of one or more limbs;

17 (3) Dysfunction of one or more limbs rendering the person unable to
18 perform the tasks of grasping and lifting with the hands and arms or
19 unable to walk without mechanical assistance, other than a cane;

20 (4) Disease, injury, or defect confining the person to a wheelchair, walker,
21 or crutches;

22 (5) Legal deafness; or

23 (6) Legal blindness, for purposes of participation in disabled fishing only.

1 The disability must be permanent, and a person loses eligibility to participate in the
2 Disabled Sportsman Program when the specified disability ceases to exist.

3 (c) A person who qualifies under subsection (b) of this section may apply for
4 participation in the Disabled Sportsman Program by completing an application supplied
5 by the Wildlife Resources Commission and by supplying the medical evidence
6 necessary to confirm the person's disability. In order to participate in activities under
7 the Program, each disabled participant may be accompanied by an able-bodied
8 companion, who may also participate in the hunting, fishing, or other activity. The
9 Commission shall charge each disabled participant an annual fee of ten dollars (\$10.00)
10 to defray the cost of processing the application and administering the special activities
11 provided under the Program. The participant and the participant's companion shall also
12 obtain any applicable hunting, fishing, or other special license required for the activities.

13 (d) In developing the Disabled Sportsman Program, the Wildlife Resources
14 Commission shall:

15 (1) Establish special seasons and bag limits for hunting all or selected
16 species of wildlife;

17 (2) Authorize the manner for taking wildlife, consistent with State law;

18 (3) Permit the use of vehicles and other means of conveyance in areas
19 normally closed to such use;

20 (4) Permit the use of crossbows or other specially equipped bows by
21 persons incapable of arm movement sufficient to operate a longbow,
22 recurve bow, or compound bow, but only during a season for hunting
23 with bow and arrow and only during a special hunt organized and
24 supervised by the Wildlife Resources Commission for the Disabled
25 Sportsman Program;

26 (5) Set special fishing seasons and size and creel limits for inland fish; and

27 (6) Alter any other established rules of the Wildlife Resources
28 Commission pertaining to hunting, fishing, or special activities, as
29 generally applicable or as applicable to game lands, for the purpose of
30 providing access to disabled persons participating in the Disabled
31 Sportsman Program.

32 The Wildlife Resources Commission may use its game lands for purposes of
33 conducting special activities for the Disabled Sportsman Program, and may enter into
34 agreements with other landholders for purposes of conducting special activities on
35 private lands.

36 (e) The Wildlife Resources Commission may establish special activities under
37 the Disabled Sportsman Program for any class or classes of disability described in
38 subsection (b) of this section. The Commission shall publicize these activities through
39 the public media and in the Commission's publications to ensure that disabled persons
40 are notified of the activities and informed about the application process.

41 (f) The Wildlife Resources Commission shall hold at least four special hunting
42 activities under the Disabled Sportsman Program per calendar year, at least two during
43 the season for taking deer with bow and arrow, and at least two during the season for

1 taking deer with guns. The Commission shall alternate the location of these special
2 activities so as to provide equal access to disabled persons in all regions of the State."

3 Sec. 2. This act is effective upon ratification.